Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 232 | **MONDAY** SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Ogumoro's fishing vessel hired to pick up Northern Islands residents. **PAGE 2**

Fund: Judiciary will default $13.8M loan by Nov. **PAGE 3**

Fitial to put DPH under state of emergency

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"I want to declare a state of emergency at DPH to allow us to bring in doctors from the Philippines and other areas. The declaration is being drafted and may be issued this week. I am meeting again with the attorney general on this."

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday said he will put the Department of Public Health under a state of emergency to allow the hiring of doctors from the Philippines and other countries to help address the shortage of specialists at the government hospital.

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DHS asks Fitial for plan to save 41 immigration jobs in CNMI

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left front row, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, special assistant for administration Esther S. Fleming, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos gesture as they urge a large crowd of supporters to vote for all Covenant Party candidates during the party's rally yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

As Kilili files bill to include Chinese and Russian tourists in visa waiver program

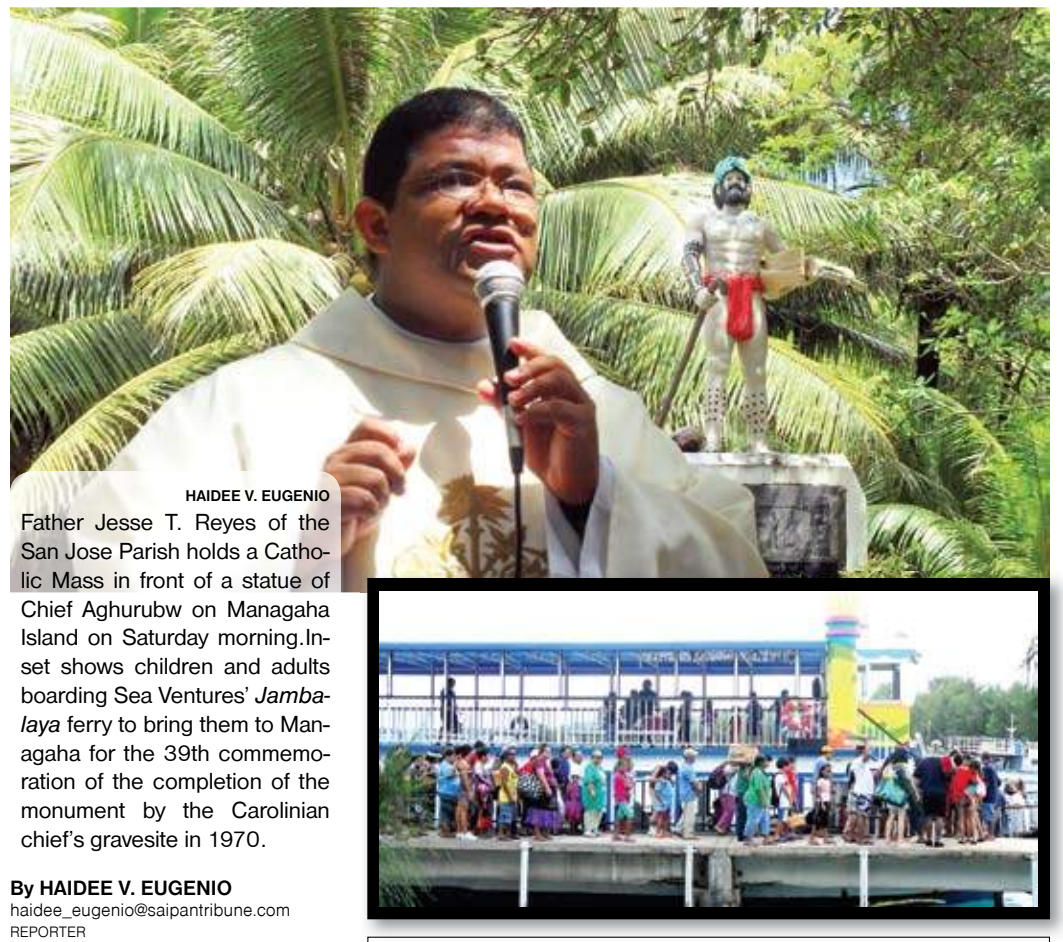
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano not only told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that DHS will propose a "creative solution" to the CNMI's request for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program, but also asked the governor to submit a proposal to keep the job of 41 CNMI immigration employees once the federal government takes over local immigration.

The governor yesterday said his administration is looking at "outsourcing" of certain port of entry jobs to a private CNMI contractor as contained in the 46-page protocol for the

See DHS on Page 4

Community pays tribute to Chief Aghurubw



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Father Jesse T. Reyes of the San Jose Parish holds a Catholic Mass in front of a statue of Chief Aghurubw on Managaha Island on Saturday morning.Inset shows children and adults boarding Sea Ventures' *Jambalaya* ferry to bring them to Managaha for the 39th commemoration of the completion of the monument by the Carolinian chief's gravesite in 1970.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of residents made a trip to Managaha on Saturday morning to pay tribute to Carolinian leader Chief Aghurubw whose remains lie on the tiny island.

"I come here not only because of tradition, but because I want to commemorate the man who brought us, his people, here. If it weren't for his knowledge of

See COMMUNITY on Page 4

'Investigation endangered my life'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said his administration will let justice take its course in the drug case involving his former driver Pete Reyes, but expressed disappointment with federal agents for not considering his safety and that of his family knowing the gravity of the crime being investigated.

Reyes, the governor's bodyguard and driver, allegedly used the governor's vehicle to buy and sell methamphet-

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support debt forgiveness for CNMI scholars who fail to pay back the money awarded them for their college education?

Yes	38
No	115
Undecided	6
No opinion	2

Sunday, September 27, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

As of September 25, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Back from Brink

World leaders on Friday issued sweeping promises to fix a malfunctioning global economic system in hopes of heading off future financial meltdowns.

Business...Page 14

Conan OK

Conan O'Brien was expected to be back on the job Monday after hitting his head during a "Tonight Show" stunt.

Life & Style...Page 21

Local

Ogumoro's fishing vessel hired to pick up Northern Islands residents

Concerned captain asks if fishing boat is Coast Guard certified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Emergency Management Office has contracted for $12,000 a fishing vessel owned by CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro to pick up the 12 remaining residents of Alamagan and Agrihan that were recently devastated by Super Typhoon Choi-Wan.

Sources disclosed that EMO turned down the bid of two passenger carriers and selected Ogumoro's fishing vessel, *Blue Marlin*.

A concerned boat captain told *Saipan Tribune* that if *Blue Marlin* is not qualified by the U.S. Coast Guard's regulations to carry passengers then EMO is risking the lives of these 12 residents.

When contacted for comment yesterday, EMO assistant supervisor for operations Ed Rabauliman said Ogumoro's fishing vessel is U.S. Coast Guard certified.

Rabauliman said *Blue Marlin* already left Saipan Friday to pick up the remaining residents of Alamagan and Agrihan. He said he is not sure whether the vessel is arriving on Saipan today, Monday, because there's a weather disturbance.

Rabauliman said Ogumoro's boat have been going back and forth from Saipan to Northern Islands even before Choi-Wan struck the CNMI.

A boat captain, who requested not to be identified, said he wants people to know that the government is taking the people from the Northern Islands on a vessel that may not be U.S. Coast Guard safe.

"They are risking these people's lives and the government is going to pay 12 grand for it," he said. "They're trying to lie about it. But I want the paper to get involved because the people need to know what is going on."

The captain said he has nothing against Ogumoro, whom he described as a "nice guy." But he noted that the DPS official had been cited by a federal agency for an oil spill before and that he has a pending civil case in the district court.

"This is not right for the people in the Northern Islands that have lost everything that they are going to throw them on this fishing boat with no cover, with no blankets, with no beddings," he pointed out.

A U.S. Navy helicopter picked up the six residents of Alamagan, including a new born baby, last Sept. 17 and flew them to Saipan.

Due to devastation of Alamagan and Agrihan, the government wants to evacuate all the remaining 12 residents of the islands.

Super Typhoon Choi-Wan's center passed directly over Alamagan last Sept. 15, packing 150 to 160 miles per hour winds.

EMO said everything on Alamagan has been damaged.

House supports Beach Road improvement project

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Thursday adopted a resolution supporting both the development and implementation of the Beach Road Corridor Improvement Project, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced House Joint Resolution 16-30, which became House Resolution 16-100 that was unanimously adopted at the session.

The resolution urges different agencies to work cooperatively to develop the Beach Road project, enter into stakeholder agreements, develop comprehensive project management plans, and aggressively compete for available federal funds.

It also encourages Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Department of Commerce, in concert with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) to work with the U.S. Department of Energy to develop cooperative agreements and letters of intent to develop and implement the project.

The adoption of the resolution came two weeks after Zoning administrator Victor Barrett made a presentation about the Beach Road project for House members on Capital Hill.

In that presentation, Barrett announced that the project's plan and zoning guidelines development has been scaled back by almost 58 percent or from $1.6 million to $680,000 due to other projects and programs tapping into the same source of federal funding.

The Zoning Office is tapping a portion of a $9.6 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy for the CNMI.

CAR CRASH
Photo shows a blue Toyota Echo taxi with plate number 1032 which was one of the cars involved in a three-car collision in the corner of Alus St. and Beach Road yesterday afternoon. The taxi hit the back of a new red Toyota Corolla with plate number ACA 434, while an old Toyota Camry with plate number ADT 271 was hit on its side. No one was seriously hurt in the incident and the motorists left the area minutes later.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

220 YEARS OF SERVICE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The U.S. Marshal Service Office celebrated their agency's 220th birthday with the U.S. District Court for the NMI staff at the Horugichi Building on Friday.

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Fund: Judiciary will default $13.8M loan by Nov.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Judiciary's $13.8 million loan to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund will be in default in November 2009 and not May 2010 as earlier projected.

Fund comptroller David Demapan, in his report to the board, said that the default will come sooner because the Department of Finance failed to remit court collections for the past four months, or from April-August this year.

"As a result, it forces the judicial building to be in default as earlier than expected by November of this year," Demapan said.

The judicial building is among the four local investments of the Fund and is one of two investments that are at risk.

Last July, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja informed the Legislature that the default of their loan is expected to occur in May next year.

Though former Fund chair Juan T. Guerrero earlier expressed the board's willingness to extend the loan to five more years, that was not discussed during the board deliberations last week.

Saipan Tribune learned that the judiciary's average monthly collections have significantly dropped in the last few years and will result in its $13.8 million loan to the Retirement Fund going in default by May 2010.

It was revealed that as of July 15, 2009 the outstanding balance on the original loan of $13.8 million is $7 million which was used to build the Judicial Complex in Susupe.

It was the Judicial Building Financing Act of 1994 that allowed the CNMI government to secure a loan from the NMI Retirement Fund in order to build the Guma Hustisia, which has a maturity date of Aug. 14, 2015.

The construction of the Judicial Complex began in 1995. It was completed in May 1998. The revenues generated by the Judiciary was the primary source of repayment of the loan.

However, it was reported that average monthly collections of the judiciary have decreased from $103,902 in FY2007 to $69,126 in FY 2009 to date.

Local investment balance drops by 9%

The Fund's comptroller also disclosed that through Aug. 31, 2009 the agency had realized $2.7 million from the debt service payments of its local investments namely: Commonwealth Employee Government Credit Union, Member Home Loan Program, Judicial Building, and the Group Health Insurance Life.

"The principal balance of these investments dropped by 9 percent from $16.7 million to $15.1 million," Demapan said, citing that CEGCU and the judicial building are at risk at this time.

With the CEGCU, the Fund got the debt service payment for the month of August.

"As soon as the CEGCU is in default, the NMIRF will take action," Demapan added.

Dandan 'Action Team' invites new members

The Dandan Neighborhood Watch "Action Team" is inviting members of the Dandan community to join the group and help improve the village.

The Action Team intends to build partnership within the community to reduce crime and improve its livability, instill a greater sense of security, and beautify the village.

"One of our goals is to revitalize our community and the cleanup campaign is of paramount importance to instill confidence in everyone," said team captain Frank B. Camacho. "We have a lot more to do and we are ready to move into the village roadways for clean up. Let us be the role model on island with our village cleanup campaign."

The group meets at the Dandan Children's Park every Saturday morning at 8am and helps clean up the park until 4pm.

For more information on how to help, contact Camacho at 483-0764. ***(PR)***

Live the Fiesta Way!
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Healthy Menu
Main Course
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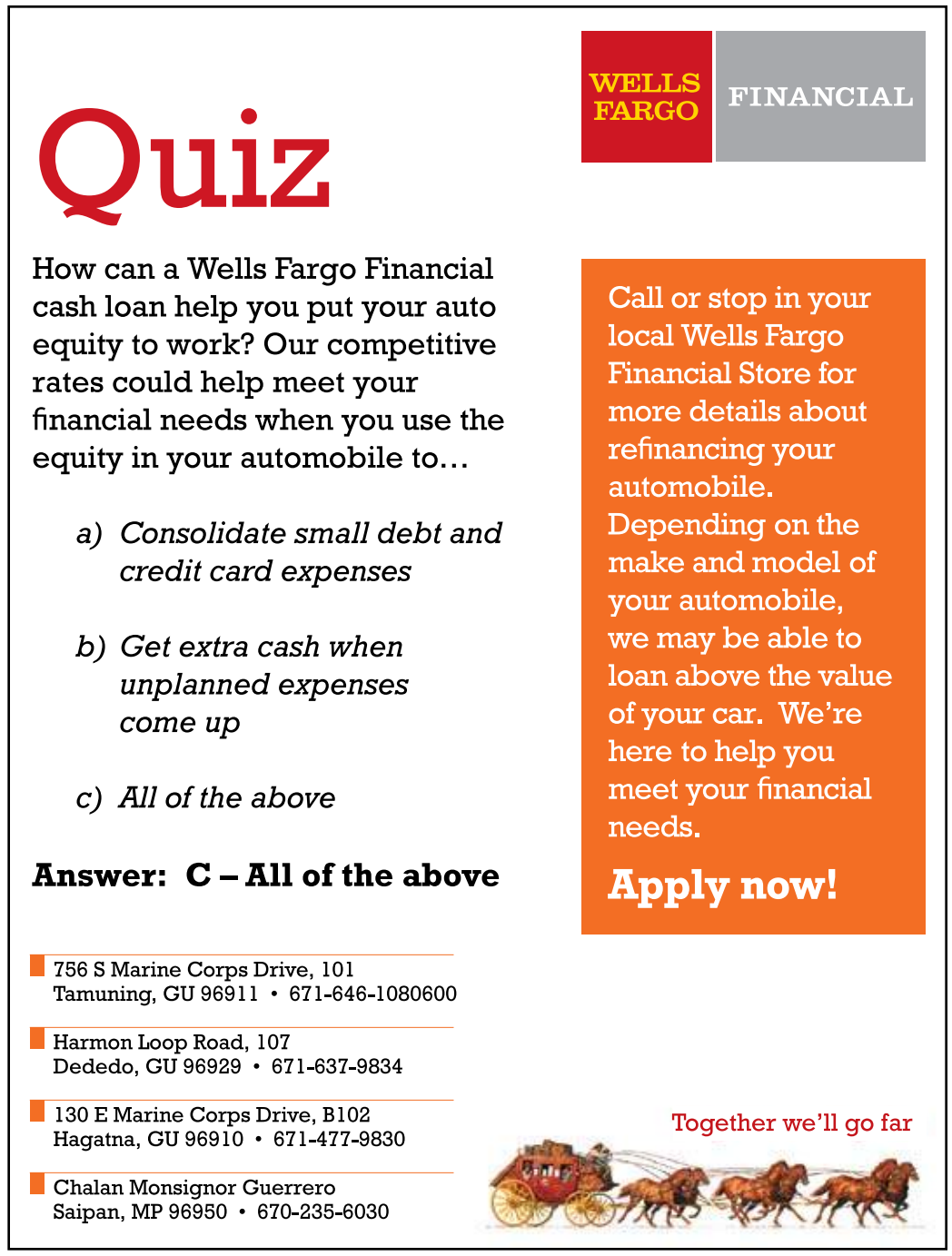
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c) All of the above
Answer: C – All of the above
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Together we'll go far

Commonwealth Retirement Association Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Commonwealth Retirement Association (all members of the Defined Benefits program) will be held on September 29, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The agenda includes the election of board members followed by a question and answer session with the four gubernatorial candidates.

William R. Barrineau
Chairman

INVESTIGATION

From Page 1

amine or "ice," sometimes right after dropping off Fitial at his office on Capital Hill.

Reyes was charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute.

Fitial said based on news accounts, his vehicle—a blue Nissan Pathfinder—had been tailed by federal agents since March.

Fitial said individuals who might have been dealing drugs with his driver could have harmed him and his family but federal agents didn't seem to mind as they went on with their surveillance.

"I could have been killed by those involved in drug dealing, those recipients of my driver's drug, if the allegations are true. Why didn't DEA tell me? It took them months to charge him… This is not the right way. It placed the governor in a very dangerous situation," Fitial said in an interview yesterday.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administra-

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COMMUNITY

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navigation and spirit of determination, we wouldn't be here," said retired police captain Manny Mangarero, who brought with him some 30 members of his family and relatives to the annual commemoration rites.

Mangarero, 52, said bringing children to the annual celebration instills in them the importance of paying tribute to a great leader, and to keep the tradition of commemorating Chief Aghurubw alive.

"We bring our kids to this event because we want them to continue the tradition, to continue to remember our past," Mangarero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview right after the Mass led by Father Jesse T. Reyes and held in front of Chief Aghurubw's monument on Managaha.

Saturday marked the 39th year that the Carolinian community held a Chief Aghurubw anniversary celebration.

The event commemorates the completion of the monument by the Carolinian chief's gravesite in 1970.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who arrived from Washington, D.C. to Saipan at past 1am on Saturday, led the Chief Aghurubw commemoration rites.

Fitial briefly addressed the crowd of children and adults in Carolinian language.

Melchy Billy, who is married to a member of the Chief Aghurubw clan, said the annual celebration on Managaha brings together families and relatives.

Billy, who is originally from Chuuk, said she and her family have always made it a point to set aside one Saturday every September to join others in paying respects to Chief Aghurubw.

In 1815, Chief Aghurubw, together with Chief Nguschul, sailed their people away from the typhoon-ravaged Caroline Islands to resettle on Saipan.

Chief Aghurubw was known as a great navigator, and as a man of courage and humility. His courage was revealed as he braved unpredictable weather and uncertainties ahead to bring his people to a land of refuge.

His humility lays in his decision to sail to Guam to first ask for permission from Governor Medinilla for resettlement on Saipan. The governor of Guam granted his request, returning to Saipan with the documents granting his people access, along with a top hat and cane, all featured prominently on the statue on Managaha.

"Chief Aghurubw changed the course of history in the lives of the Carolinians and who gave himself to shape their destiny," said the Chief Aghurubw Foundation.

After the Catholic Mass, the large crowd on Managaha was treated to free island food and drinks.

Families swam in the ocean after the commemoration rites and picnic. Others used the time to get together with relatives.

Free ferry trips courtesy of Tasi Tours and Sea Ventures/Pelley Enterprises brought at least 300 children and adults to Managaha for the annual rites.

DHS

From Page 1

implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

The contractor will, in turn, hire the 41 current Division of Immigration employees who would work under the supervision of DHS's U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Under P.L. 110-229, DHS will control and operate six ports of entry in the CNMI.

"We have a great working relationship with Secretary Napolitano. We are waiting for the creative solution DHS is proposing," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Covenant Party rally at Garapan Fishing Base yesterday. He and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos addressed the large crowd of supporters, along with candidates of the Covenant Party for the Nov. 7 elections.

The current immigration employees do not meet DHS job requirements, including the age threshold of 37 years old.

Kilili's bill

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan introduced last week a bill that would continue the existing CNMI visa waiver program for 180 days beyond the Nov. 28 start-up date for federal border control in the Northern Marianas.

DHS would administer the existing CNMI visa waiver program, allowing Russian and Chinese tourists to enter the Commonwealth without obtaining a U.S. visa in advance of arrival.

Sablan also introduced a bill delaying by one year or until Dec. 1, 2010 the implementation of P.L. 110-229 in the CNMI.

Fitial yesterday said his administration welcomes any legislation that will delay federalization.

He, however, said that the Fitial administration does not agree with the reasons cited by Sablan in seeking a delay in federalization, except for DHS's own lack of preparedness to secure CNMI borders two months from now.

Sablan earlier said that federal control of CNMI borders "will reduce the scams and abuses that have been a hallmark of local immigration control."

"There are two things we are looking at. First, we're waiting for the creative solution proposed by DHS for us to be able to continue having the Russian and Chinese tourists. We don't know what that proposal is at this time. Second, we're looking at a legislative or congressional fix," the governor said.

He added that Napolitano was happy to see a copy of "The Commonwealth's Protocol for Implementation of Public Law 110-229," a 46-page document addressing key concerns related to the transition to federal immigration, including the loss of government jobs, foreign labor, and adjudication of labor cases.

The governor went to Washington, D.C. last week to meet with Napolitano on federalization and visa waiver program issues.

Options

Sablan said it is necessary to have a number of options on the table, referring to the two bills he introduced last week.

"A complete delay of U.S. Public Law 110-229 is certainly called for if the Department of Homeland Security is not adequately prepared to assume its responsibilities at the border November 28. If the Department is ready, however, or ready enough that it is not possible to win the argument for a complete delay, then we have to have some other alternative legislation that will allow the Commonwealth economy to continue to benefit from Russian and Chinese tourists," he said.

H.R. 3658, he said, will allow Russians and Chinese to come to the CNMI for vacation just as they have for years without any serious problem or security risk.

"I am open to compromise and negotiation on this issue; and I think my new bill will facilitate discussion," Sablan said in a statement yesterday.

On Monday last week, Sablan met with Napolitano, who told him that DHS would be ready to take responsibility for the borders as scheduled. She also told Sablan that she understood the economic importance of tourists from Russia and China.

But the DHS secretary, according to Sablan, said she could do nothing to change the Interim Final Rule published in January that excludes Russians and Chinese from the visa waiver program.

Rather she spoke of a "creative pathway," which she suggested could keep the Russians and Chinese coming even after Nov. 28, 2009.

"On Friday I again met with Homeland Security officials including Dr. Richard Barth, who has been one of the lead people on Northern Mariana Islands immigration. But these officials were unable to say exactly when we could see, or describe in any way this 'creative pathway' the Secretary promised," he said.

"This uncertainty about what DHS could do or was willing to do, prompted me to introduce a bill that would accomplish exactly what Secretary Napolitano seemed to want: to keep the Russians and Chinese coming to the NMI," said Sablan.

But House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that it's very unlikely that Sablan's bill seeking further delay in federalization will pass the U.S. Congress before Nov. 28. He added that conflicting statements from Sablan and DHS about DHS's readiness in securing CNMI borders create confusion in the community.

Humanitarian concerns

Sablan's H.R. 3658 also addresses concerns about the two groups of CNMI residents who were not considered by the drafters of P.L. 110-229.

Under Sablan's bill, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (or persons married to U.S. citizens or parents of children who are U.S. citizens because they were born here) will be given the right to reside in the CNMI for a full five years.

Persons who are CNMI permanent residents would have the same right to stay until 2014.

Sablan said both groups could work and come and go from the CNMI without the need for any further permission or visa from the United States.

"These people are our neighbors, our friends, our relatives in many cases. We have to make sure that they can continue to live and work in the Northern Mariana Islands, just as they always have. This is their home," said Sablan.

CNMI permanent residents are persons who have lived in the CNMI since at least 1981.

Under Sablan's proposal, at the end of the five-year period, parents of U.S. citizen children would be eligible for U.S. citizenship even if their children were still too young to petition for their parents to become citizens.

Normally, children must be 21 years old to make this petition.

Persons with CNMI permanent resident status could, at the end of the five years, obtain U.S. permanent resident status.

Lower fees

Sablan's bill also takes note of the lower incomes in the CNMI as compared to the rest of the United States.

Fees for applications for U.S. citizenship by immediate relatives would be lowered and the minimum income requirements for these families would be waived, he said.

Rene Reyes, president of the Coalition of United Workers-CNMI, earlier said that foreign workers' groups are "strongly against" any further delay in federalization.

In today's Cabinet meeting, Fitial said federalization will still be the main topic on the agenda.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Cardiologists and nephrologists will be among the specialists to be hired directly from foreign countries, instead of relying on a U.S.-based headhunters firm for $25,000 per doctor hired from the U.S. and Canada.

"We will hire based on necessity," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Covenant Party rally yesterday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Doctors at DPH's Commonwealth Health Center are hired only from the U.S. mainland and Canada based on the policy of the CNMI Medical Profession Licensing Board, he said.

"I want to declare a state of emergency at DPH to allow us to bring in doctors from the Philippines and other areas. The declaration is being drafted and may be issued this week. I am meeting again with the attorney general on this," he said.

The governor said the hiring outside the U.S. and Canada will be a "temporary fix" to the doctor shortage at the hospital.

"We can't hire from the Philippines but we can send our patients to the Philippines for treatment and other medical care," he said, adding that the MPLB is dragging its feet on the issue of hiring doctors from countries outside the U.S. and Canada.

Acting Health secretary Pete Untalan also earlier said that CHC's choice is limited when it comes to hiring physicians.

He said although CHC regularly refers some patients to the Philippines for treatment, the CNMI cannot hire doctors from that country due to the standards and requirements mandated by the federal government. CHC, which receives Medicare and Medicaid funding, is required to hire U.S.-trained doctors.

Among the factors that discourage physicians from coming to the CNMI, according to Untalan, is the uncompetitive salary offered by the government as a result of declining revenues and resources.

Untalan said the current lack of doctors in the hospital can be augmented by services from the private sector. He is in favor of providing reimbursement for their services.

In recent weeks, the Legislature has been pointing to perennial problems at CHC, including mismanagement, limited services due to doctor shortage and malpractice.

Fitial said as early as last year, he met with officials of private clinics to allow them to provide specialists to the government hospital and participate in the Medicaid/Medicare program.

He said the government is willing to share with private clinics a portion of the estimated $6.5 million in Medicaid funding provided to the CNMI, among other things.

CHC has shortage of doctors at several sections, including three at the pediatrics and one at internal medicine.

But CHC medical director Dr. Brostrom earlier said that private clinics are now taking up the slack for the two sections after they allowed patients' access to care using Medicaid and Medicare.

The government-run CHC currently has 32 doctors, including part-time and visiting physicians.

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare will subpoena documents from DPH, including those related to the hiring of doctors through a headhunters firm.

"I want to know how aggressive they are in recruiting doctors. If they say doctors don't come because of low salaries, I want to know how much we need to meet their expectations on salaries," said Torres, adding that an oversight hearing on DPH will be conducted soon.

On Tuesday morning, DPH officials snubbed a public hearing on health issues by the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. A second public hearing that day drew some 40 members of the community, except DPH officials.

Untalan also earlier said that DPH has received inquiries from off-island doctors willing to work in the CNMI as a result of the anticipated implementation of federal immigration rules on Nov. 28.

These potential physicians may come to the CNMI through the J1 visa waiver category, which will allow them to work in underserved areas in the U.S. with their families.

At present, foreign doctors who go to U.S. medical schools and are trained in U.S.-accredited facilities have to go back to their countries and serve there for a number of years.

Without the visa waiver program, physicians must wait for three to four years before they could work elsewhere.

Less than 70 percent of NMC students complete courses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Less than 70 percent of students at Northern Marianas College completed their courses in the Spring 2009 term.

According to the first annual institutional effectiveness performance report for 2009, the primary reasons for the low completion rates were poor attendance and tardiness of students.

It was learned that based on the results of the Early Intervention Program analysis, 57 percent of students recorded poor attendance and tardiness, while 22 percent of them have poor academic performance and poor attendance.

Fernandez

Moreover, the NMC report showed that 16 percent of enrollees had poor academic performance.

"This analysis will continue with other programs with less than 70 percent completion rates to better understand the causes of low completion rates in order to then develop plans to increase the rates," the report added.

NMC, through the leadership of president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, also vowed to gather and analyze data on course and section enrollment and learner needs for scheduling purposes.

The college said that before schedules can be rearranged, it is important to gather and analyze data on course and section enrollment.

This academic year, NMC experienced a 25-percent increase in enrollment and will look ways on how to better improve the figure.

'Improve access to student services'

As part of the college's strategic goal to promote student learning and success, NMC said it will deploy an annual student satisfaction survey, review its results, and implement corrective action plans for introduction of new or supplemental services in order to improve upon existing service offerings.

In Spring 2008, NMC reported that less than 50 percent of respondents indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with student life, recreation, and overall student services.

The college also began administering new assessment instruments from the national survey of student engagement (NSSE), including the survey of entering student engagement in Fall 2009 and the community college survey of student engagement in Spring 2010.

NMC also established a retention committee which is now reviewing proposals for a retention strategy for students.

To improve the literacy and analytical problem-solving skills of students, NMC said it needs to strengthen its developmental programs to meet the unique and varied needs of its students and then successfully completed the construction of a new English Language lab on campus.

INVESTIGATION

From Page 4

tion received a tip about Reyes' "ice" use and distribution as early as December 2008.

In March 2009, Reyes offered to sell "ice" to a DEA source and caught him handing over 0.12 grams of "ice" to the source inside the source's car, which was parked at the side of the Governor's Office's building on Capital Hill.

"I was shocked to learn of his involvement. Every day, I entrusted him with my life and my family's life. If he's done what he's accused of doing, then I will let justice take its course. But I am also very concerned about the way this investigation was conducted," Fitial said.

The governor, who just came back from Washington, D.C. on early Saturday morning, said federal agents "endangered" his life and that of his family by not telling him of the surveillance on his driver.

Reyes, 39, listed the Department of Public Safety as his employer. Fitial said DPS may have to find a replacement for Reyes. At this time, Fitial is being driven by either employees at the Office of the Governor or his friends and relatives.

Lawyer Robert Torres, counsel for Reyes, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI during a hearing late Thursday afternoon that Reyes is waiting for a medical referral for his heart condition.

Designated U.S. District Court for the NMI judge David Wiseman approved the request to place Reyes under house arrest except for medical emergencies.

The judge imposed a $10,000 unsecured bond that should be co-signed by Reyes' wife and a future third-party custodian.

Reyes surrendered to federal agents Thursday afternoon after the U.S. government filed a complaint charging him with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute. He pleaded not guilty.

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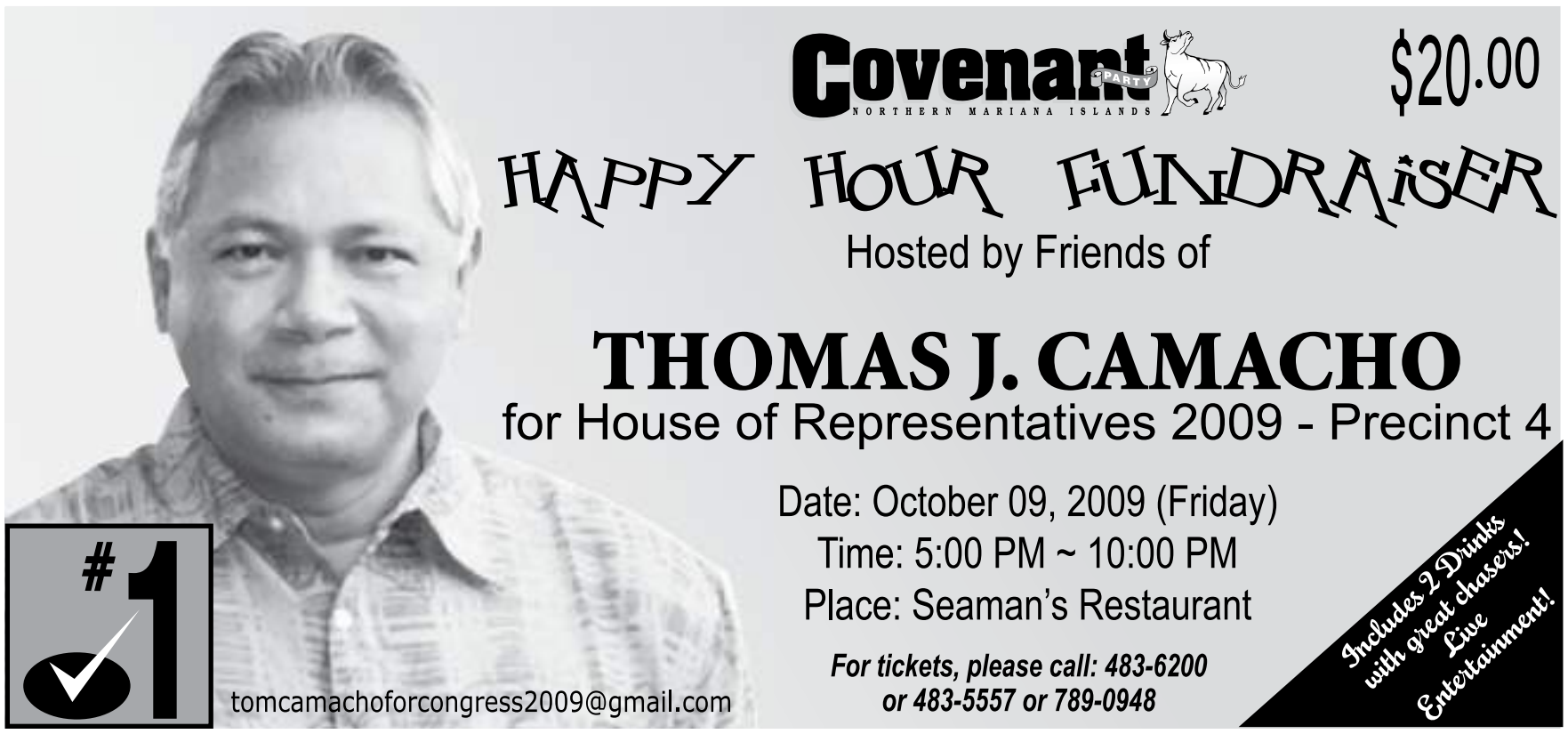

'Critics of local ARRA efforts unaware of details'

The Department of Commerce has recently come under criticism for not spending its ARRA funds as expeditiously as other jurisdictions in the nation, including other insular areas.

While the website that tracks ARRA spending (www.recovery.gov) shows the CNMI has only spent 1 percent of its total ARRA funds, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada explains that the amount shown is not an accurate depiction of the total money received from the Federal government or the amount drawn down.

"What critics need to be aware of is that there are more in details than one would think. www.recovery.gov gets its information from federal agencies, but it reports funds that have been awarded versus funds that have actually been provided to the CNMI Treasury. We can't spend money that we don't have in our accounts, so it is fairly difficult to draw down money that is only in the form of a notification. A notification of an award is nothing more than an award letter. You wouldn't go spending money because someone promised you that they were going to give it to you. It means nothing until you actually have the money to spend," said Ada.

In a recent memo to Office of Insular Affairs Director Nick Pula, Ada explains that as of Sept. 23, 2009, "The CNMI's Financial Management System shows that the CNMI has only received some $16 million, while www.recovery.gov showed that the CNMI received more than $27 million in ARRA funds. As far as expenditures, www.recovery.gov shows that the CNMI has only drawn down $332,000, while the CNMI's Financial Management System shows that we have either expended or obligated $668,084 and actually drawn down $380,026 from the federal funds."

Obligation of funds refers to the federal funds being committed for a purpose, such as a contractual obligation to a local firm for a good or service. Once funds have been obligated and the service or good has been

Ada

delivered, the government will actually cut a check and pay a vendor. The term "expenditure" actually refers to payment for a good or service from the government and is the point in time when the government begins to draw down the federal funds.

Ada says the lack of understanding of the process and terms used when dealing with federal grants have led critics to misrepresent the facts in an effort to skew the public perception that the CNMI is not moving fast enough.

"In all my conversations with other State Stimulus leads and various Federal Executive Branch agencies, the CNMI is no more behind or ahead than many other jurisdictions across the nation," said Ada.

In the memo to OIA, Ada explains that variances in the numbers are due to various dynamics including lag times between federal and local systems and processing. "While www.recovery.gov shows a higher award amount than what we actually received, time lags from when the federal agency awards the money to the time it reaches our Financial Management System account for those variances in award amounts. On the expenditure side, our records indicate a higher amount than what is reported on recovery.gov, because of reporting lags. The federal reporting also doesn't include obligations included in the CNMI's financial management system. Many of the projects for which the CNMI was awarded money have been obligated, but the actual expenditures have not occurred," Ada explained.

This is most evident in the money received under the Division of Energy. The agency was awarded $19.4 million dollars, but only 40 percent has been made available to the CNMI thus far. Of that amount, $226,760 is currently being obligated for project management to manage $7.43 million in energy projects, all of which will be under contract by the end of October. The first three projects have already been put out to bid, with prospective bidders meeting with the project managers last Friday for the initial walk-through of the facilities which are to benefit from the energy money. In addition, the CNMI Division of Energy has expended $21,819 for travel related to various trainings required by the Federal Department of Energy, as well as obligated $275,348 for personnel (by hiring five new full-time positions to manage the office mandates).

"As you can tell, the amount obligated or expended from the Division of Energy alone exceeds the 1 percent that recovery.gov reported for the same period of time. Again, this is only the Division of Energy, this amount doesn't include the $366,325 that WIA spent to provide employment opportunities to 838 CNMI eligible youths during the summer," Ada said.

"In addition to the processing and systematic lag times, there are also anomalies that occur which impact the reporting. For example, the US Department of Labor has the state abbreviation for the CNMI listed as "CM" rather than "MP"; thus, it is not reported to www.recovery.gov correctly, although they have awarded us over $1 million. In addition, the administration is only responsible for reporting on funds that were received through executive branch agencies. Autonomous agencies, such as the Public School System, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority all have received ARRA funds direct to those respective agencies," Ada said.

While Ada acknowledges that much of the public perception that the CNMI is moving too slow stems from the lack of awareness, his office has pledged to ensure the public is made aware of the progress being made on the projects.

To achieve this, the CNMI ARRA Program Office under the Department of Commerce will be holding public hearings and informational sessions on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. In addition, the CNMI ARRA Program office will be providing more up-to-date information on www.cnmi-arra.net and improving its website content to ensure that the public is fully aware of all that the CNMI is doing with these funds.

"We will post every employment opportunity funded under ARRA funds on the website, all RFP's, and all awards made. I realize that the public is curious and I certainly don't want to withhold information; however, this undertaking is massive and complex in nature. Unfortunately, public outreach has been something that has fallen by the wayside. I would ask for patience from the public and especially critics of our efforts. The ARRA is an unprecedented program and requires a tremendous amount of resources and time to deal with the vast amount of information. With this in mind, I am committed to ensuring that my office keeps the public informed through continual media and public outreach efforts," said Ada. ***(PR)***

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Saipan Tribune

Former club employee files sexual harassment lawsuit

A former employee of Club Micronesia in Garapan has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against the club owner in federal court.

Fea Dela Cruz La Torre sued Japan Enterprises Inc., owner of Club Micronesia, and five unnamed co-defendants, for sexual harassment, retaliation, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

La Torre demanded payment for damages, back pay and front pay, attorney's fees, and court costs.

When asked for comment about the lawsuit Friday, Club Micronesia manager Takayuki Umeda said he has not seen the complaint.

According to the complaint, La Torre began working for Club Micronesia on June 12, 2004.

The complaint alleged that the defendants required La Torre to meet and sit with customers who visited its club and allow the customers to sexually harass her. The harassment allegedly included allowing customers to touch and fondle her.

La Torre objected and complained about allowing customers to harass her, but the management allegedly rejected her complaints. The management, she alleged, instructed her to let customers sexually harass her.

Following her complaint, La Torre's co-workers and other employees allegedly subjected her to verbal and physical abuse.

La Torre said the conduct of the management and employees forced her to leave the job on July 8, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live fire training on FDM from Sept. 29 to 30

The U.S. Naval Forces Marianas-Guam will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla from Sept. 29 to 30, 7am-9am. The area affected will encompass a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants from the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos is strongly advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact the Operations Section of the Emergency Management Office at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 and CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

Commonwealth Retirement Association Meeting

The first annual general membership meeting of the Commonwealth Retirement Association will be held tomorrow, Sept. 29, 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The association is made up of all the working and retired members of the original Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Program, now referred to as the Defined Benefit Plan. Election of the board will also take place. All gubernatorial candidates are confirmed to speak and answer questions. For additional information, call 234-6858 or 322-4785. ***(PR)***

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Family Violence Task Force and NMI Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault are inviting the public to the 2009 Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing on Sept. 29, 10am, at the Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

This year's theme is *Embracing Hope: Healing Generations, One Survivor at a Time.*

Other activities in October are:

- Oct. 4: Day of Prayer. Catholic Mass at 9am, San Jose Church
- Oct. 9: Candlelight Vigil and Men's Walk
- Oct. 14: Walk beginning at Oleai Beach Pavillion
- Oct 17, 24, and 31: Wise Women Village Project Outreach
- Every Thursday: Street Market ***(PR)***

Saipan mayoral bets at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have it next general membership meeting on Oct. 7 at Pacific Islands Club—Charley's Cabaret. The group has invited all of the Saipan mayoral candidates to join Chamber members at this meeting and will provide them an opportunity to address members. The Chamber will be hosting senatorial and gubernatorial debates in October, but no mayoral debates. The Saipan mayoral candidates are Roman C. Benavente, Antonio M. Camacho, Juan S. Demapan, Donald Glenn Flores, Jose DLG. Sanchez, Candido B. Taman, Lino S. Tenorio, Marian DLG. Tudela, and Angelo O. Villagomez. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. Entry fee is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(SCC)***

Beginners' conversational Korean classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center—Korean Language School has developed KSL (Korean as Second Language) and KTL (Korean as Third Language) programs. And the Center provides Beginners' classes at Northern Marianas College as a CDI program. Anyone interested in learning the Korean language can join the October classes. It's almost free. If you are too busy to come during working hours, just call for the free visit-registration service. The proposed class time is on Tuesday or Friday, but it can be changed according to the situation of the participants and the details will be announced later. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221, e-mail: korean2221@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 - 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

- John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)
- Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)
- John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)
- Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)
- Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

DEQ beach cleanup on Oct. 3

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will pick up trash at Abuni Beach in Garapan on Oct. 3. File photo shows community members cleaning up the beach in a recent island-wide cleanup.

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Abuni Beach in Garapan.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet on Oct. 3 at 8am behind McDonalds in Garapan. Come join us and "Pick it Up!"

Volunteers will split into groups, cleaning behind McDonalds in Garapan North to Hafa Adai Hotel drainage and South to the Fishing Base Marina area until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three (3) cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, please contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Proposed CNMI Strategy to Support the Military Buildup for Local Benefit Public Involvement Meeting

A Public Meeting will be held to discuss findings regarding how the CNMI can better utilize its resources to support the military during the build-up on Guam and ensuring long term benefits to the CNMI. The goal of the meeting is to gain public feedback to help shape a support strategy. **The first meeting will be held at the Roundhouse on Rota October 1st, starting at 6:00PM.** Similar meeting in Saipan and Tinian will be schedule in the following weeks.

For those who cannot attend, we welcome your written comments sent to
either: igisomar@gmail.com
or
CNMI.Proposed.Strategies@gmail.com

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
2ND FLOOR, MORGEN BUILDING, SAIPAN MP, 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
September 28, 2009

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR	08/31/09 SSm-2009-X-068	DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (09/13/09)
2. MC N COMPANY LTD.	09/09/09 SPIm-2009-X-069	DRYDOCK	LOWER BASE ABLE DOCK	PORT & INDUSTRIAL	APPROVED (09/13/09)
3. DIVISION OF PARK'S & RECREATIONS	09/11/09 SSm-2009-X-070	BEACH PAVILLIONS	CHALAN KANOA	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
4. USBC INTERNATIONAL INC. DBA: SAKURA MARINE SPORTS	09/22/09 SSm-2009-X-071	BEACH CONCESSION	GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
5. USBC INTERNATIONAL INC. DBA: SAKURA MARINE SPORTS	09/22/09 SLRm-2009-X-072	BANANA BOAT OPERATION	GARAPAN LAGOON	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
6. USBC INTERNATIONAL INC. DBA: SAKURA MARINE SPORTS	09/22/09 SLRm-2009-X-073	NON-MOTORIZED MARINE - SPORTS	GARAPAN LAGOON	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
7. DTC SAIPAN	09/24/09 SSm-2009-X-074	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT

The judiciary reaffirms its support for the NMI and Guam soldiers by signing a proclamation last week in the Supreme Court. From left are associate justice John Manglona, associate judge Perry Inos, chief justice Miguel Demapan, Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve Guam and CNMI State Chair General Benny Paulino, associate justice Alexandro Castro, associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, and ESGR CNMI area chair Rose Igitol.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

PROVEN LEADERSHIP

Former Department of Public Safety commissioners Gregorio M. Camacho and Claudio K. Norita pose for a photo before the ESGR proclamation on Wednesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESGR PROCLAMATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Governor Eloy Inos looks on while the ESGR proclamation is read.

MARSHAL SERVICE TRAINING

CNMI Judiciary Deputy Marshal Jeffrey Castro gets sprayed with pepper foam by DPS instructor PO3 Frank Pangelinan during the Marshal Service Unit Officer Survival Course held recently at the Guma Hustisia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Deputy Marshal Jeffrey Castro strikes the target using the PR-24 Monadnock baton while Deputy Marshal Jess Santos holds the bag.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Marlon Cabrera who celebrated his birthday last Sunday, Sept. 27. May you have many more birthdays to come. Coming from your loving wife and son, and the rest of your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to "Sexy" Roxanne Torres! Hope you enjoy your special day! Love always your SSS family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 28, 1999

Infighting delays budget approval

With two days left before the end of the current fiscal year, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio met yesterday with the House of Representatives in an apparent bid to scuttle attempts by lawmakers to alter the budget proposal for FY 2000. But it is not sure yet whether the Legislature will be able to approve the package amounting to $206 million as members expressed fear they might not beat the constitutionally-mandated deadline with uncertainties still looming. "I am not sure whether the budget will be passed at the end of the fiscal year," Tenorio told reporters. Failure to do so would mean the government will have to run under continuing resolution based on the funding level approved the previous year.

Reyes: Shut down Manila liaison office

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday vowed to press for closure of the government's liaison office in Manila, saying it is just unnecessary expenditure of public funds that should be better spent for the local scholarship program. He said the move is in line with efforts by the Legislature to trim down the government's unnecessary expenditures in order to increase funding for educational assistance of both off-island and Northern Marianas College students. The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee which he heads is expected to propose the reprogramming of $65,000 set aside by the Tenorio administration for the Manila Liaison Office under the FY 2000 budget package into other priority programs.

Sept. 28, 2000

Bill granting tax credits to low-income opposed

Legislation seeking tax credits for school expenses by low-income families have drawn objections from the community due to potential constitutional questions and limited benefits to most of the people. The House Ways and Means Committee is considering inputs and recommendations on HB 12-203 which will provide exemption on certain educational expenses for CNMI taxpayers whose school-age children are recipients of the federal nutrition programs. Sponsored by Rep. William S. Torres, the measure seeks up to $500 deduction per family from the individual income tax paid for textbooks and other school expenses of each dependent attending public, private or religious elementary and high schools on the islands.

Inquiries on fed child tax program swamped DOF

Inquiries have swamped the Department of Finance on the heels of reports about the federal child tax credit program that has been extended to the Northern Marianas involving about 3,700 families, according to officials. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio welcomed the good news and vowed to work closely with the department to immediately pay people who are qualified to receive such refunds. "From all indication we will get between six to ten million dollars and this will benefit people who are entitled to participate in this program," he told reporters yesterday in an interview. "I hope we will be able to work closely with the finance [department] so that people will receive their entitlement as soon as possible," added the chief executive.

Sept. 28, 2001

Man arrested for assault

A woman turned black and blue after she was allegedly beaten up near her residence in Kagman III by a 62-year-old man who accused her of poisoning him. Police identified the suspect as Ricardo Muña Quitugua. He was arrested for allegedly beating a 49-year old woman. "She [the victim] was observed to have blood on her lips, scratches and bruises on the neck and grass all over her clothing," said Department of Public Safety spokesperson Cecilia Celes. Although Celes said the relationship between the victim and the suspect was still undetermined, the assault started from an argument between the two.

GES pays tribute to attack victims

The Garapan Elementary School will hold a memorial service to pay tribute to the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The memorial service will be held at the school compound today. The students have prepared activities geared towards healing and solidarity. The GES has chosen to use blowing bubbles as a symbol of upliftment. Gifts of hope such as cards and letters will be sent to the families of victims, rescue workers and President Bush. Monetary donations will be sent to the Firefighters 9/11 Relief Fund.

Pacific

Fiji stung by exclusion from new UN peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Fiji's coup leader and self-appointed Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama complained Saturday to other nations that his country's troops have been barred from joining any new U.N. peacekeeping force.

He darkly hinted that his critics are the dupes of twisted politicians who are in league with terrorists to push "racial supremacy" and a "corrupt agenda."

In his speech to the General Assembly, Bainimarama did not name Australia or New Zealand as Fiji's nemeses in the region, but he made clear who he blamed for being blackballed from U.N. peacekeeping:

"Our people pose no threat to anyone, least of all to the big powers of the South Pacific who have arrogated to themselves the right to dictate to us our future and the way we govern ourselves," Bainimarama said.

"In all of this, they have used their extensive diplomatic and financial resources to deny Fiji to participate in new peacekeeping operations," he complained.

AP

Fiji's Prime Minister Commodore Josaia Bainimarama addresses the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009.

Fiji still participates in other long-standing peacekeeping patrols, such as in Iraq.

"Fiji has participated in peacekeeping operations since 1978 and is proud of its association with the United Nations, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations," Bainimarama said.

"Fiji has been disappointed by what appears to be a unilateral decision on the part of the United Nations to debar our country from any new peacekeeping operations. To this day, we have not been able to receive a clear and satisfactory reply on this matter from the United Nations," he said.

When Britain granted Fiji independence in 1970, the Fijian army had only about 200 active troops.

Since then, more than 20,000 Fijians have been deployed in U.N. peacekeeping operations, building a robust military culture in the nation of fewer than 950,000 people.

Fiji has been under military rule since Bainimarama, the country's armed forces chief, seized power in a 2006 coup, its fourth since 1987. His government had promised elections earlier this year, but Bainimarama said in Saturday's speech that they will not be held until 2014.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Court rules against Flosse, upholds sentence

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The court of appeal in French Polynesia has upheld a one-year jail sentence given by a lower court to the veteran politician, Gaston Flosse, for misusing public funds following the 2004 general election night. He has also been fined 12,000 US dollars. The verdict has also declared him ineligible for public office for a year. It is not clear if the sentence will be suspended in the case of an appeal to France's top court. Flosse, who was the territory's president, organised a massive reception for his Tahoeraa Huiraatira Party at the presidential palace on election night, assuming he would increase his majority and win another five-year term. After his shock defeat, the entertainment bill was left for the new government to pay but the new administration of Oscar Temaru refused to do so. Once back in power, Mr Flosse settled the account and Mr Temaru lodged a complaint, saying the election night party was not to be funded by the taxpayer.

American Samoa moves to purchase cannery

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News)—Moving at a rapid pace, the idea of a government owned cannery is fast becoming a reality: it needs only the $5 million appropriation bill to purchase COS Samoa Packing assets to be passed to set it in motion. In the meantime, Gov. Togiola Tulafono is heading to Honolulu tomorrow night to negotiate with an off-island company to operate and manage the COS Samoa Packing facility that he says should be operational within 60-days after the cannery closure at the end of this month. Togiola first publicly announced the purchase on his weekend radio program last Saturday and that he was in discussion this week with representatives of an off-island company for managing and operating the plant. He also noted more details could not be revealed until COSI had responded to ASG's proposal for the purchase of local COS assets.

Pacific leaders plead for climate change action

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Sun)—The Pacific created a wave at the United Nations Summit on Climate Change this week, as leaders begin making a strong commitment for the region on the issue.

In a Declaration adopted in New York at the 'Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Summit on Climate Change', leaders and ministers of the 42-member negotiating group expressed 'grave concern that climate change poses the most serious threat to our survival and viability', and disappointment at the current slow pace and lack of resolve in international climate talks.

Speaking at a press conference following adoption of the Declaration, Prime Minister Marcus Stephens of Nauru took a swipe at recent suggestions that talks on a new post-2012 climate deal should be allowed to leak into next year.

"Seventeen years after signing the Framework Convention on Climate Change, we are still waiting for emissions to peak. We cannot allow domestic politics and self-interest to delay what we already know to be essential. Further delayed action will escalate the cost of adaptation well beyond our economic capacity," said Prime Minister Stephens.

Leaders of the world's island states have demanded that the new post-2012 international climate agreement guarantee their countries' livelihood and survival by ensuring that global warming be kept well below 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C).

AOSIS Leaders heard that current targets from industrialized countries add up to emissions cuts of only 11 to 18 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, which would put the world on a path to 3°C or more in temperature rise. Current targets are about one third of the 45 percent cuts by 2020 required to keep global warming and associated losses and damage—already estimated at FJ$125 billion [US$65 billion] annually—under control.

Recent science indicates that 3°C of warming will result in substantial loss of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, resulting in one or even two metres of sea-level rise by the end of the century. The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees has already warned that some particularly low-lying island states are 'very likely to become entirely uninhabitable'.

Prime Minister Tillman Thomas of Grenada, the Caribbean island state which currently holds the AOSIS Chairmanship, called the current targets "unacceptable", adding that no state or group of states has the right to condemn another to the tragedy of statelessness.

"Our people are already suffering devastating impacts and losses at the current 0.8 degrees Celsius (°C) of warming—coastal erosion, coral bleaching, salty drinking water, flooding, and more intense cyclones and hurricanes" said President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives.

"Should we, leaders of the most vulnerable and exposed countries, be asking our people to sign onto significantly greater degrees of misery and livelihood insecurity, essentially becoming climate change guinea pigs? The limit must be 1.5°C to stay alive!"Today's 'AOSIS Declaration on Climate Change' calls on the international community to ensure that the Copenhagen climate agreement peak global emissions by 2015, with a subsequent fall to 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The AOSIS 1.5°C target and associated goal of stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at 350 parts per million is supported by the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), a total of about 80 countries that represent more than 40 percent of the U.N. membership. The targets are below the 2°C and 450ppm promoted by many industrialised countries and some developing countries, which are based on now-outdated science.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-156 (A&B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 07, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CANON IMAGE FORMULA DR-7550C AND ONE (1) CANON IMAGE FORMULA DR-7090C PRODUCTION SCANNERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Help prevent child abuse by reporting it.

Call Division of Youth Services at 664-2565/2567

Your report is confidential.

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The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice, gives notice that the property listed below was seized for forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 881, because the property was used or acquired as a result of a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (Title 21, U.S.C., Sections 801 et seq.). An owner or lienor may file a petition for remission or mitigation of the forfeiture with the Forfeiture Counsel, Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, HQs Forfeiture Response, P.O. Box 1475, Quantico, Virginia 22134-1475, pursuant to Title 19, U.S.C., Section 1618, and the regulations governing the petition process set forth in Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 9. Correspondence sent via private delivery must be sent to the Asset Forfeiture Section, Office of Operations Management, Drug Enforcement Administration, 2401 Jefferson Davis Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22301. In addition to, or in lieu of petitioning for remission or mitigation, a person may contest the forfeiture of the seized property in UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT by filing a claim with the Forfeiture Counsel of the DEA pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a). Upon the filing of a claim under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 983(a), a claimant may request, pursuant to Section 983(f), release of the seized property during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding due to hardship. A petition, claim, or other correspondence shall be deemed filed with the Asset Forfeiture Section, when received by the DEA at either of the addresses noted above. Submissions by facsimile or other electronic means will not be accepted. The names of persons or businesses appearing in this notice are not necessarily criminal defendants or suspects, nor does the appearance of their names in this notice necessarily mean that they are the target of DEA investigations or other activities.

SECOND NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE NOVEMBER 5, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-520925, Men's Rolex Datejust Watch Model 16233, Ser No E502946, Saipan, MP, Huang, Ya Bin, 08/20/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 232

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Drinking games

Robert McDonnell, the Republican nominee for governor of Virginia, takes every opportunity to tout his 20-page, single-spaced transportation plan. But a close reading of the plan yields only disappointment.

Much of the plan relies on wildly optimistic assumptions, brazen exaggerations, gauzy projections and far-off scenarios: budget surpluses and revenue growth that may not materialize; interstate tolls that the federal government may not approve; royalties from offshore oil and gas wells that may not be drilled; borrowing that the state may not be able to afford anytime soon. Lump all that in a file called "Don't Hold Your Breath." Insert some of his other proposals—such as diverting some sales tax revenue from schools, public safety and human services statewide to pay for Northern Virginia road improvements—into a file called "Politically Dead on Arrival." Quite simply, much of what McDonnell has in mind would almost certainly not come to pass during his four-year term as governor, if ever.

However, there is one idea in the McDonnell transportation program—by far the biggest one in dollar terms—that has attracted more favorable notices: his contention that Virginia could raise the alluring sum of $500 million simply by privatizing the state's hard-liquor sales. The problem is, McDonnell's revenue estimates are invented or, worse, an intentional distortion.

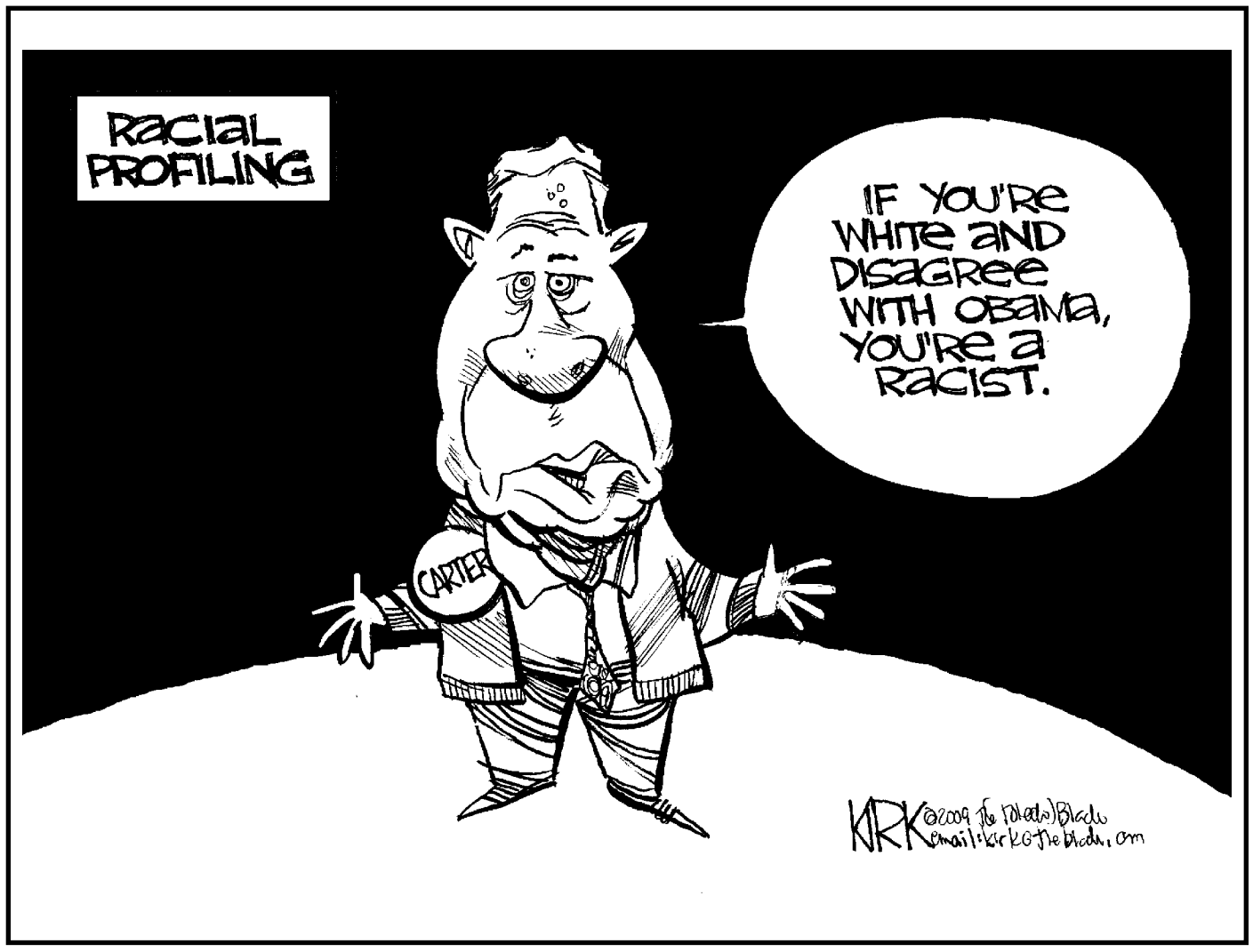
This plan has appeal, because there is no reason for the state to be in the business of selling booze. Although the idea of shifting Virginia's liquor profits to pay for transportation is new, the idea of privatizing the sale of spirits has been around for years and was endorsed earlier this decade by a state commission led by former governor L. Douglas Wilder, a Democrat. Virginia is one of 18 states that still controls wholesale and retail sales and distribution of hard liquor, and we have every confidence that the commonwealth would survive privatization.

But the idea that privatization would generate significant money for transportation is a pipe dream. And the notion that liquor sales could provide a steady source of revenue for new road projects is even less plausible.

We asked the McDonnell campaign to identify the basis of his prediction that a privatizing hard-liquor sales would produce a $500 million windfall. We were directed to two sources. One is a think tank study—from early 2007, before the recession—of what might happen if Pennsylvania privatized its liquor sales under one possible (maximalist) scenario. The other is the Wilder Commission's report, published seven years ago, which, while urging privatization, made (begin ital) no estimate whatsoever (end ital) of the amount that might be generated. The commission said Virginia might save $500 million by streamlining state government and made 16 recommendations for how to go about it; a number of those recommendations have been implemented. Privatizing liquor sales was one of the 16 recommendations, but the commission said the goal should simply be to match the annual revenue produced by the state's monopoly on liquor profits.

We don't know, and McDonnell isn't saying, how he'd go about privatization. He does suggest, however, that it could be achieved without increasing alcohol consumption — or, presumably, dramatically adding to the 334 outlets that now sell spirits. Bearing in mind that all but a few of those outlets are leased, not owned, and that many are in rural areas where customers are sparse, it is wildly unrealistic to think the state could squeeze out $500 million by peddling 334 licenses or franchises to sell booze. The last states to sell off their liquor monopolies—

See DRINKING on Next Page


RACIAL PROFILING
IF YOU'RE WHITE AND DISAGREE WITH OBAMA, YOU'RE A RACIST.
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The game of—oops—the art of politicking

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

It's almost impossible to not notice all the posters lining up along the road screaming at us to vote for ___. You fill in the name. All the want-to-be politicians are out in full force. And in a few weeks we will parade to the election booths to elect who we feel will do the best job. But how do we select from about 110 candidates? What do we know about each one and what he/she is capable of doing?

First, let's look at the political parties that each candidate attaches himself to. And let's discuss why so many are running as independent candidates.

Have you ever read or heard exactly what the Republican Party, the Covenant Party or the Democrat Party stand for? What are their platforms, principals and goals? What do the Independents stand for? How is each different? I would love to hear from someone who truly understands what each group believes in and why it does?

I am a Catholic and can explain my beliefs. I am sure other religious people can also explain their beliefs. But when it comes to politics, we enter a hazy area of double-talk or gobbledygook. Have you ever heard a turkey talk? That's gobbledygook!

It would be so truthful if each respective party candidate would tell us why he believes in the principals of the party he affiliates himself with. This is also true for the Independents who may have been refused entry into any of the established parties. Why have they chosen to be Independents? Can't you all speak the truth for once?

The most interesting thing about party affiliation is how often and easy some politicians change parties. This election time a candidate is a Republican. The next time he is a Democrat, a Covenant, or an Independent. Is he merely and opportunist seeking someone to take him in?

It's as though this month I have chosen to be Catholic. Next month I decide to become Jewish. Later when my mood shifts I become a Buddhist or a Muslim. For example, there is a certain prominent candidate in this upcoming election who was a Democratic Party governor. And another candidate who was head of the Republican Party. Now both are Covenant. What new exciting political principals did they discover along the road to conversion? What made them change parties after being at the head?

Have any of us asked ourselves: Why do I vote as a Democrat or Republican or Covenant or Independent? What do I want in my representative? Will I elect a candidate because he promises me a job or something else? Or worse of all—he is a relative! Or will I vote for him because he and I agree on what has to be done to improve our lives? Do I fully realize that I am entrusting the future of my community to him? If we don't improve, will it be his fault or mine too?

Do we ever wonder why individuals run for political office? What goes through their heads as they contemplate becoming a candidate? Do they mediate silently and subjectively examine their qualifications and purpose for running for political office? Or does a voice come out of the heavens and say to them: I HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO LEAD MY PEOPLE! GO FORTH! NEVER MIND YOUR QUALIFICATIONS!"

How have they prepared themselves for the office they seek? Have they read the Constitution and the Covenant and understand them? Are they readers of books and magazines to keep abreast of the ever-changing world around us? Or do they stop at the local sports page for their news? What has been their educational background and work experience that qualifies them for office? What have they done for the community in the past years?

If a man or woman has done little for the community all his/her life, can we truly expect an outstanding performance when he/she is in political office? No one becomes active all of a sudden if his whole life has been uneventful. One must have shown leadership in his past.

Please examine our choices for political office before we mark your ballot. Remember no one knows who we vote for. We are alone in the booth. Only we know who our choice is. Think before voting. Our future lies in the choices we make.

It is too sad that only people such as doctors, lawyers, and other professional occupations have to go to colleges and then take tests to qualify for their profession. Even to go to college a student has to take an entrance exam. But imagine—anyone can become a politician without any education or formal training. No wonder we are so often disappointed. Because of family connections some of them spend as long as 20 to 30 years as politicians!

After the chosen ones get into office what continuing education will they do to better understand the community for which they decide laws? For instance, how many will visit the CUC power plant and study the problem first hand? Who will go to the CHC and discuss how the government can make the hospital become a good one? Who will visit the jails and juvenile detention centers to see if any rehabilitation programs are in place? Who will work closely with the PSS to help create a better educational atmosphere?

How many will attend courtroom hearings and become familiar

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The dissent of the governed

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The Boston Tea Party in the history of the American revolution is the epic example backing the constitutional provision safeguarding the right of consent of the governed, implying its corollary, the dissent of the same.

Stalwarts in the GOP, including agitators since the Barry Goldwater era, have found cause to revive this dissent of the governed, last seen in the Vietnam War era, in the streets of Washington DC, and other locations the 12th of September after the 9/11 commemorations. With great timing for protest, it accented what some find unsettling about contemporary American life, projected upon or blamed on the Obama administration.

The reasons include a general distrust of Obama that began with charges that he was not a=0 Abona fide natural born citizen of the United States. That trail took many twists and turns, and not unlike the conspiracy theories of the JFK assassination, it will not sit still regardless of the number of documents that indicates otherwise. There is also the matter of his twitch, identified before the election, in a chilling example of racial profiling, as similar to what other African-American males would exhibit prior to doing an act of violence. In this last episode when Obama 'twitched' in public after Joe Wilson of South Carolina hollered to accuse him of lying, bloggers cautioned Republicans to be wary and keep their sisters protected in case the great half-Kenyan twitch all over again in their presence!

With such blatant racial overtones, Jimmy Carter deigned to be unpresidential in calling the root of many protesters charges as 'racially' motivated. The sting of this truth is not that it fails the test of facticity, it is that we continue to deny that racism is deeply rooted in all our psyche, most particularly in the insidious myth of Aryan superiority, the ingrained image of China as Middle Kingdom, and the continuing use in public schools of the northern hemisphere favoring Mercator projection of the world map.

Then there are the ideological reasons, accusing Obama of trying to force socialism down America's throat, as if that was possible, and the accusation that Obama is a Muslim under deep cover. But more fundamentally, Obama campaigned for change, and America responded with a majority acclaim. Change by definition rocks boats, and the fragility of egos and personalities, along with fragile if not hallow and worn out platitudes, has made Barrack a purveyor of bad tidings in many sectors who are already experiencing collapse anyway as a consequence of events not exactly of Obama's particular doing.

Those collapses are sociological and well documented. The cutting down to size of patriarchy is one. The glass ceiling still impedes the equitable remuneration of the sexes performing similar levels of responsibility, but the emancipation of the female of the specie has come a long way and ongoing, leaving more patriarcha l sleepless nights. That women hold half the sky is not fully recognized and appreciated is a hangover from deep seated prejudices. As full partners in the gender dance, "I am woman" is a happening, as it needs to, if only for the emancipation of the stodgy male from his pretensions and hang-ups.

The university is "uni" rather than "bi", "tri", or "multi" because of the conviction that reality is one, and the knowledge of it cannot be balkanized into bureaus. It is best kept integrated and unified. The unified theory of everything is not a frivolous pursuit. It is a reminder to all that knowledge is organic as reality itself is organic. It evolves; it grows. Attempts to compartmentalize reality is finally futile. It deprives life of its vitality.

The youth resent being dumbed down. Curtailing growth by delaying adulthood through extended confinement in schools is a leftover from agricultural days when head trips were thought to be preferable to the sweat trips of the labor's brow, or when the industrial labor requirements were too limited that prolonging youth's entry maintained decent employment levels. That can no longer hold. The age of maturity is coming back down in industrialized countries, even as the actual *chronos* of responsibility among the majority of the world's population begins at puberty.

The marginalized people around the world are tired of being fed the dropped morsels from the feast table of the favored few. They clamor for a seat at the table, or they threaten by force of number the upsetting of the table itself. Economic and political process participation is not only from intense desire, it is the only way to go.

Dependence on the public sector t o lead social transformation is misplaced. Neither the White House nor Congress, and definitely not the Judiciary, can bring about radical change. Not the private sector either whose eyes are glued to the bottom line. Only the civic sector can fuel change. Civil society is a finally owning up to this responsibility. When it does, the private sector follows to make the desirable change profitable and ensure sustainability; the public sector distributes benefits equitably and if there be many players in the same game, levels the playing field.

For so long, the market had found refuge in the protection of the law and this incestuous concubinage has not been healthy to the functioning of the free market economy. The business sector tends to corrupt the regulators for market advantage, and the regulators in turn protect the weaknesses of the market for political gains making eventual collapse inevitable. Global networks are locally called to account, creating a new style of doing business: going glocal! As a consequence, the world of fin ance is undergoing radical transformation, even as the collapse of markets is forcing an assessment of economic priorities and valuation practices.

The rise of the local over the demands of the global is bringing a reality check on the cruciality of local management and control. An emerging sense of stewardship of resources is supplanting the traditional claim to divine rights and sovereign privileges on properties and assets. The survival of a local economy like Saipan will not come from outside investors as it will from local entrepreneurs who take the available local assets and create value out of them.

So, the transformation occurring in entrenched patriarchy and the current reality of female self-liberation, *then,* the demise of boxed knowledge that pitted separate worlds of mind, body and spirit, *further,* the imprisonment of youthful enthusiasm in the jailhouses of restrictions, delay and sublimation, *also,* the empowerment of the fringes in society to join the action at the center, *additionally,* the mistaken dependence on the public sector to lead innovation and the illusion that the private sector will put equity as the force to fuel its engine, *next,* the acknowledgement of globalization of networks and *finally*, the need to localize resource, production and distribution management, have all caused collapses of a magnitude that the familiar forms of individual and family roles, public service and religious edifice complexes are shattering before our eyes and crumbling under our feet.

Is there legitimate reason to still take a stance of protest in America? If by protest, we mean the Latin *pro-testare,* to declare what one is for, then, sure, we have every reason to protest. But if we mean, adults whining over their misfortunes, or blaming those perceived to be responsible for their miseries, directly or indirectly, pasting satanic horns on officers they did not vote for, then perhaps, we should invoke the reality of growth and promote the cause of moving on .

Boston is a bastion of grassroots democracy. Let the tea party be a sharing of the juice, rather than a spillage overboard of the human assets and resources we so desperately need to preserve. The Kennedy dynasty is at rest. Let the new tea party begin. The brothers are dead! Long live Jack, Bobby, and Ted!

Letters to the Editor

Clarification on Saipan dry dock project

An article written on Sept. 24, 2009 made a misstatement about Allegiance Capital Corporation's proposed dry dock project—"up to this time the business proposal had not moved forward."

This project requires many pieces of effort to come together over a long time frame. One of the most critical items deals with getting Title 10 of the United States Code amended to allow United States Navy ships to be repaired or overhauled in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The bill introduced by Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is only a first step. Moving a bill through the complex machinery of Congress requires support of multiple sources and we are working to marshal support for the measure in Texas and other areas.

Without this change in the United States Code, there can be no naval utilization of a Saipan dry dock facility. Reviewing legal requirements, understanding situation nuances, developing plans and working out contingencies are something good management does quietly and with fan faire.

This process will not happen overnight and is not inexpensive. Until Allegiance Capital Corporation is convinced that critical steps necessary to a successful project are completed, it will be working quietly with the appropriate Commonwealth agencies to minimize disruption of port operations.

Roger M. Whittaker
SVP, Allegiance Capital Corporation

THE GAME

From Page 10

with our judicial system? Who will seek out businesspeople and ask how the government can help them? Will the farmers be totally forgotten or will congressmen try to find ways to help the farmers? The list goes on and on. Where there is a will, there is a way to improve our lives!

Unfortunately too many of them will sit in their ivory towers removed from reality. Then when they attend sessions, they will vote blindly on first and last readings without any discussion. Please—please don't do this. Sometimes I cry for my beloved country when I hear of actions like that. Bills need lots of discussion and compromises before they become good laws.

The game of politicking seems to be that the more posters candidates put up along the highway, the better their chances of winning. The less they discuss their personal agendas with us the more likely they will win. And of course, when it comes to voting, family members will rally around their family candidate regardless of his qualifications.

Have you noticed how many candidates have so many extended family names? For example I am Anthony Santos, Tenorio, Dela Cruz Pangalian, Borja Pellegrino. If you didn't know, you do now at election time. What a sad state. How phony!

If we want better government and improvement, we must take the time to ask questions and demand satisfactory answers. We must demand that each candidate have proper qualifications and that he state clearly his intentions before we vote for him. If we don't do our part, we deserve the quality of candidates we too often get. Government is comprised of trust. Legislators are its trustees. And both the trust and trustees are created for our benefit. Take the time to choose wisely.

Please do not think I am poking fun at any candidate. I want them and us to realize the awesome responsibility we all possess if we are to enjoy good government "for the people, by the people." A country is only as strong and prosperous as its elected officials and its citizenry. Our happiness and future lies in our choices.

Remember: "AS YOU SOW SO SHALL YOU REAP!"

DRINKING

From Page 10

Iowa, West Virginia and Ohio—didn't get anything close to that.

Even if privatization produced a short-term windfall (though certainly it would be much less than McDonnell envisions), the more important question is how the state would fare on a longer-term basis. After all, road-building is not a one-shot deal. Here, it's fair to worry that Virginia would instead lose money. As we said, the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control currently transfers the annual profit from liquor sales ($103 million last year), in addition to taxes on the sale of alcohol, to the state's general fund. Much of those funds support programs in mental health, substance abuse and other human services. So, in effect, McDonnell is proposing to (begin ital) cut (end ital) $103 million from those human service programs and divert it to transportation—a political non-starter.

What's more, he would have to find an additional $40 million or so to pay for the ongoing regulation and enforcement of liquor sales, now also covered by the state's liquor revenue. Remember: Virginia currently keeps 100 percent of profits from liquor sales. Would the new taxes on liquor store owners and their profits really replace the roughly $140 million a year the state nets? Don't count on it, unless there is a huge expansion of liquor sales and outlets, probably including big retailers such as Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Costco—which won't happen.

McDonnell's proposal to address the state's most critical long-term problem, transportation, appears to have heft; in fact, it crumbles under close scrutiny. Far from fixing the state's roads, McDonnell would leave them in the lurch—and Virginia commuters along with them.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

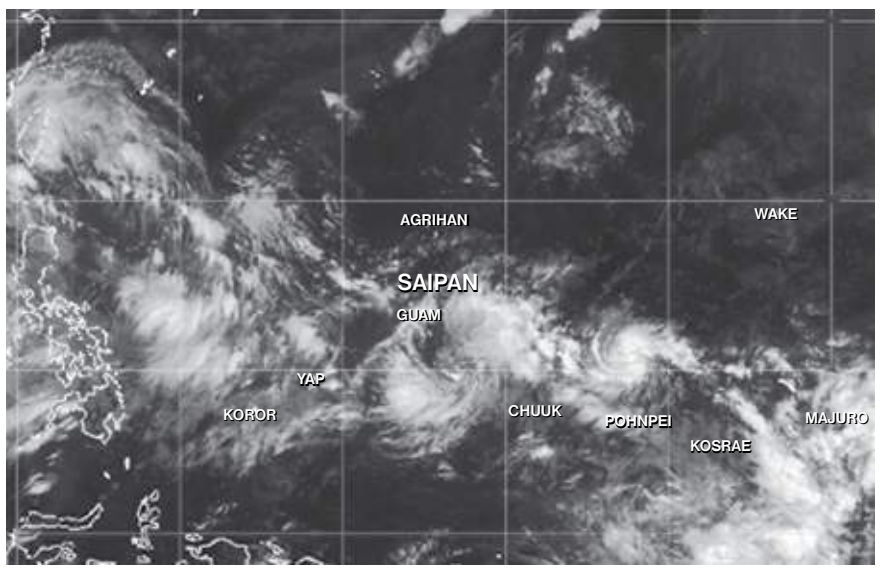
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲86	▼77
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲92	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼43
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼58
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼67
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼50
Pusan	Showers	▲78	▼62
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼59
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼48
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼54
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from the northern Philippines through a weak circulation centered close to Chuuk near 9N150E then eastward through a more prominent circulation northwest of Kwajalein near 11N160E then finally southeastward to end at EQ175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the circulation close to Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 8N147E to 11N151E and within 100 miles of the center of the circulation northwest of Kwajalein. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Koror near Yap and west of the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 18N132E to 12N130E to 8N130E to 10N140E to 13N140E to 19N135E back to 18N132E and south of Pohnpei and over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 11N169E to 6N150E to EQ150E to EQ170E to 8N172E back to 11N169E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro and Tarawa or east of a line from 1N174E to 9N175E. An upper-level low centered south of Minami Tori Shima near 21N153E is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 75 miles of 19N152E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:20 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:19 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:58 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:25 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:08 PM	12:52 AM
Tuesday	2:48 PM	1:42 AM
Wednesday	3:26 PM	2:32 AM
Thursday	4:02 PM	3:20 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	4:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Si Yuus Maase' Dr. Chong

JOHN S. DELROSARIO, JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Nai ma`agañg para i taihinekog na deskansoña si Dr. Jose L. Chong gi mapus na semana, hu tutuhon umakanteha i finaposña, pareho ha` komu mediku yan saina. Gi todu atmos banda, oppan i unrau na naan`ña komu mediku guine siha na islas. Famosu komu medikun operasion `nai megai hana` fan safu ya man-homlu tatte.

Sumen mauleg na mediku si Dr. Chong. Siña ta sañgan na u dipotsihe mafañagu yan mabendise para ayu na offisiu. Nai mana` hanau para un hospitat giya Hawaii pot ineyag operasion, manmatman i mediku siha guihe ni tiniñgoña yan mauleg kanaiña komu medikun operasion. Estague` hayuña ya ha setbi iya Marianas fiet pot mas ke kuarenta años.

Un` mediku si Dr. Chong ni espesiat abilidatña umekuñgog yan umanalisa hafa pinadesisimu. Katma gi ininan pinadesin maseha haye na malañgu. Estague` otru mañaña (katma) kau mauleg `sino papagyu i tanu. Dispues de dinispacha hau ya un` tatiye sinañganeña, libianu homlu hau tatte ya unnae`gue agradesimientu pot ayuduña. Estague sustansian Dr. Chong i mauleg yan fiet gi offisioña para todus.

Lokue, si Dr. Chong sumen mauleg na buleru antes. Guiya pumupulan i primet diu (first base) gi grupon Saipan Team. Kanaha todus esta i man-paire na membron este na buleru man-hanau lokue para i taihinekog na deskansun niha. Si defuntu Tinoñg Arriola guiya gaige gi segundu diu, si Tan Piñg Seman gi tetset na diu, si Digu Camacho gi entalu yangin si Tun Josen Magofña man-dadagau. Otru mandadagau antes (picha`) ha inklulusu si Jose C. Cabrera (RC), Jose Terlaje yan otru siha.

Ti hu gef dimimoria haye man-gaige gi santatte. Lau un` grupon buleru na tat kontrariu ti ha gana deste Guam, Pohnpei yan Palau. Si tatahu Juan mumaneha este na grupu estake matai gi 1955. Si Tan Ko Palacios gachoñgña apmam n pumega papa` todu i manmasusede gi kada huegu.

Dañkulu kontribusioña si Dr. Chong kumu mediko guine gi tano`ta. Megai na sakrifisiu gi duranten `nai brabu este na mediku gi hospitatta guine, kontodu papa` giya Luta yan Tinian. Un` tautau na megai tumuñgu deste antes. Un` naan na mampos oppan gi pachot tautau sa` megai ha assiste ya man-homlu dispues.

Para todu sainahu i ayudumu gi halom katma na mañamu, ileghu na man-magof I tautauta gumachuñgeyu munae` hau un` dañkulu na Si Yuus Maase pot todo I setbisiomu yan sakrifisiomu. Bai`n hahasso hau gi tinayuyot mame pagu na mes. Bien felis gi kareramu ya siempre lokue un` soda ginefsagamu gi bandan i Saina. Si Yuus Maase yan ghilisow! Ginen i tautaumu siha ginen i gatbu na O`Perlas iya Pasifiku.

`Nai ha soda si Pedro Malas na hokog esta kattan para tautau Marianas ginen as San Pedro, mamaisen taimanu mohon humalom gi lañget sin katta. Ineppe as Juan Malas, "Nañgga estake manmatai miyon pot miyon na Chinu sa siña gai chansa hau". Mamaisen taimanu. Masañgane na taya computer guihe hulu ya siempre yayas si San Pedro pumasalista naan tautau siha. "Gigon magap, hagu` halom maseha manu na bandan potta". De dios!

Dealing with Iran's deception

By HOWARD L. BERMAN
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Democratic representative from California, is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

WASHINGTON—Tehran could soon have humankind's most frightening weapon if substantial diplomatic progress is not made in the coming days.

The United States, along with its partners Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany (known as the "P5 plus one"), will sit down on Thursday with a representative of Iran. From the American perspective, the principal item on the agenda is Iran's illicit nuclear program. Iran's leaders have said they are prepared to talk about virtually anything but that. If diplomacy does not rapidly deliver results, the United States will have to adopt tough measures to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear arms.

For years Iran spurned diplomatic overtures to address the threat posed by its nuclear program. Meanwhile, its efforts have progressed to the point that it already has enough low-enriched uranium to produce fuel for at least one nuclear bomb.

Tehran's admission this week that it has secretly constructed a second enrichment plant suggests that its program may be further along than we had imagined. We do not have much time to wait.

I support President Obama's efforts to engage Iran. Thanks to these efforts, no one will be able to say that we failed to do everything possible to give Iran a diplomatic way out. But there is more than ample reason to be skeptical that the regime in Tehran intends to come clean about its nuclear program.

Friday's revelations about the second uranium enrichment plant cast a particularly dark shadow over Iranian intentions, and they come after more than 20 years of deception and stonewalling by Tehran.

It is critical that we set clear timelines and benchmarks by which to judge Iranian intentions as well as unambiguous consequences if Iran fails to meet the criteria. The window for Iran to demonstrate seriousness of purpose should start with the Oct. 1 meeting and, as Obama has indicated, should close by the end of the year.

If Tehran is serious about engagement, it should agree early on to meaningful steps, such as a "freeze for freeze" in which Iran does not add to its enrichment capabilities—including halting construction on the second enrichment facility, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—in exchange for an agreement that no additional international sanctions would be imposed during this period. Iran must also agree to verifiably suspend nuclear enrichment by year's end. Were that to happen, the international community could enter into detailed negotiations with Iran about all issues of concern and the incentives that could be offered in exchange for a satisfactory understanding of Iran's nuclear intentions and assurance that Iran would not be able to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

But if, as I expect, that scenario does not come to pass, we should be ready immediately to impose what Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called "crippling sanctions." Iran's economy is in terrible shape, and the regime no longer can take for granted the support of its citizens. The best conduit for such sanctions would be a mandatory U.N. Security Council resolution. That would require the difficult-to-obtain acquiescence of Russia and China. Failing that, multilateral agreement by the Europeans, Japan, Australia and Canada to impose coordinated financial, trade and investment sanctions would be a serious alternative. If even that proves impossible, I believe the threat posed to our national security by the possibility of a nuclear-armed Iran obligates the United States to impose sanctions unilaterally.

The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which I, along with Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced, provides such authority to act. The bill, which has more than 300 co-sponsors (its companion in the Senate has 75 co-sponsors), provides President Obama with a mandate to increase the level of financial penalties against Iran and would prevent companies that facilitate the provision of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran from doing business in the United States. Much of the world's trade is conducted through international financial transactions in dollars that must be cleared through American banks. So if the United States were to prevent any bank doing business with Iranian banks from clearing dollar transactions, the Iranian banking system would collapse. And because Iran has to import 25 percent or more of its daily demand for refined petroleum, its economy would be seriously impaired if it were denied those imports. Indeed, a credible threat of both these sanctions might provide the best chance to persuade the Iranian regime to agree to suspend its nuclear enrichment.

To have a sanctions bill ready for the president's signature by early next year, we must start the process for passing it now. I intend to bring our bill to committee for consideration next month. Should negotiations with Iran not succeed and should multilateral sanctions not get off the ground, we must be prepared to do what we can on our own.

Letters to the Editor

Thrill of the Thunderbirds

If you have a need for speed, it'll just be a couple more days on Sept. 30 before the U.S. Air Force's Team of Thunderbirds would be lining up on the runway, throttling up, and pulling G-forces to exhibit their showmanship of speed and skills, flying the single engine, turbo-jet-equipped Lockheed Martin F-16 Eagles at Andersen Air Force Base (AAFB) on the island of Guam.

I have never seen the Thunderbirds perform. However, it was many, many years ago that I witnessed a precision aerial performance by the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels flying the Douglas A-4F Skyhawk II, and that was at the former El Toro Marine Air Base in Santa Ana, California.

If we are talking about precision flying, these jets were zooming by at sixteen inches apart, wing tip to wing tip, at low altitude and incredible speed, and at an instantaneous, abrupt maneuvers right before your eyes! It was deafening and indeed, breath-taking, impressive, stunning, and what an awesome sight!!

And now, if I'm not mistaken, the Blue Angels are flying Boeing's twin turbo-jet equipped F/A-18 Hornet (formerly McDonnell Douglas).

I'm almost certain that the Air Force's Team of Thunderbirds, basically, perform similar maneuvers as the Navy's Blue Angels, and I stand corrected if I'm wrong.

As a goodwill gesture, honor and respect for the CNMI's military men and women who so bravely fought and lost their lives in the war on Iraq so that every American citizen could go on living and maintain their freedom, I would think that the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be excited and pleased to have the Thunderbirds over on Saipan, one of these days, in the not so distant future. After all, the theme for Guam's Air Show is "Air Power over the Marianas." We're altogether on this one.

US NAVY PHOTO

U.S. Air Force F/A-18 Hornet

Enrique Dela Cruz
Capital Hill, Saipan

Where are the concrete benefits promised by PEW

Palau has created the world first national shark sanctuary, and by doing so took a action on a problem that needed immediate attention.

I wish I could say the same thing about the NMI Monument. By the way, where are any of the concrete benefits promised? Visitors Center and the jobs with it? Boat tours? Additional visitors? Science companies doing studies?

All I've heard of is those that helped it got a boat tour of the NMI—right in line of what a past president of the Nature Conservancy told me was the standard compensation for volunteers.

The Monument solved a problem we did not and most likely would never have, plus it has delivered no quantifiable results. Many folks would love to hear one concrete benefit of the Monument besides making some folks feel better.

Could someone clue us in as to anything being done by PEW, the friends or anyone that actually has concrete benefits to the world, much less the CNMI?

Please don't list the recent capture of a illegal boat fishing the NMI waters—it was illegal before and its illegal now; and the USCG did not increase its patrol budget because of the Monument.

As the days go by the hyped promises seem more and more empty. I'm sure many will say I'm being negative—but in Micronesia (and the CNMI) the track record of outsiders coming in and making promises and then delivering are abysmal.

William McCue
Via e-mail

Expose greedy bullies

I know foreign contract workers in Saipan. It is disgusting how they are abused by their employers. They are taken advantaged of. Why don't you do something good for our society and expose those people for what they are? ...greedy bullies. Please do the right thing. What is the purpose of your paper? TO CONVEY THE TRUTH. Without the truth, your newspaper is just... paper.

Patrick Johnston
Via e-mail

Business

Obama: G20 brought economy back from brink

PITTSBURGH (AP)—World leaders on Friday issued sweeping promises to fix a malfunctioning global economic system in hopes of heading off future financial meltdowns. President Barack Obama said actions taken so far "brought the global economy back from the brink."

"We leave here today confident and united," Obama said at the conclusion of a two-day gathering of the world's 20 top economies to deal with the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The leaders agreed to keep stimulus plans, which include government spending and low interest rates, generally in place in their respective countries for now to avoid derailing still-fragile recoveries. Obama had pressed for just such a course and praised the decision.

"Our coordinated stimulus plans played an indispensable role in averting catastrophe. Now we must make sure that when growth returns, jobs do, too," he said at a wrap-up news conference. "That's why we will continue our stimulus efforts until our people are back to work and phase them out when our recovery is strong."

In a statement, all the G-20 leaders declared major progress from what they called their coordinated efforts and "forceful response."

"It worked," they said.

Although many of the pronouncements and actions taken by the leaders lacked specifics or details on follow-through, leaders were bold in pronouncing the gathering—the third G-20 summit in a year—as a big success.

"There was unanimity around the table that the errors of the past won't happen again," said French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

"The old system of international economic cooperation is over. The new system, as of today, has begun," said British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, referring to a decision to enhance the status for the Group of 20 to make it the lead group for dealing with future international economic issues, eclipsing the older, Western-dominated Group of Eight.

"I have the impression that we are on a successful path," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, before leaving Pittsburgh to fly back to Berlin, where she faces German voters on Sunday.

They moved to require members to subject their economic policies to the scrutiny of a peer review process that would determine whether they were "collectively consistent" with sustainable global growth. They promised tighter and more coordinated financial regulation.

And, repeating pledges from G-20 summits in November and April, when financial panic was rampant, they vowed anew to "reject protectionism in all its forms." They also went along with Obama's push for a pledge to withdraw government subsidies from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas linked to global warming.

AP

President Barack Obama answers questions during a press briefing at the conclusion of the G-20 summit, Friday, Sept. 25, 2009 in Pittsburgh.

G-20 lockdown gone, Pittsburgh gets back to normal

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Merchants and motorists reclaimed their city Saturday as a vast police presence dissolved, barricades vanished and traffic started flowing after a gathering of world leaders that had turned the downtown area into a well-protected fortress.

Just hours after the Group of 20 summit at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center ended Friday and the world leaders departed with their entourages, the army of officers from around the country began to disband. By early evening, public works crews had begun clearing and cleaning streets that had been shut down for two days.

"I don't know what they actually accomplished, but I'm glad it's over," said Jeffrey Bauer, a U.S. Postal Service worker who has delivered a downtown route for three years.

During the two-day summit, mail carriers drove with color-coded sheets in their windows to get through security checkpoints. They also traveled in pairs to prevent vandalism of their vehicles by anarchists who were among the thousands of G-20 protesters in town.

"Everywhere we went, we saw National Guard and state police on the corners, officers walking down the street two by two," Bauer said. "It reminded me of a movie, like 'The Day the Earth Stood Still' or some kind of science fiction movie where the town's empty. It seemed to me there were more police than citizens."

Many downtown businesses closed voluntarily, some of the smaller ones boarding their windows with plywood.

Bill Martinko, owner of Galardi's 30-Minute Cleaners, now wonders if he should have bothered.

"I thought it would have been really bad, but nothing happened downtown at all," he said. "I wasted all that money boarding up."

Analysis: Bigger world economic club, same woes?

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The world's most exclusive club has expanded, pledging big things for the global economy. But it's likely to have just as much trouble delivering on those promises.

Leaders of the Group of 20, at their third summit in less than a year, said the 21st century needed a new way of coordinating the global economy.

The old economic powers—the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and relative newcomer Russia—are now joined by fast-growing developing countries such as China, Brazil and India. The cozy club—first the G-7, then the G-8—had ruled over economic decision-making for the past three decades.

President Barack Obama helped handle the membership negotiations. "We can no longer meet the challenges of the 21st century economy with 20th century approaches," he said. In his radio and Internet address Saturday, he spoke of "an historic agreement to reform the global financial system—to promote responsibility and prevent abuse so that we never face a crisis like this again."

Despite the rhetoric, what the G-20 produced in Pittsburgh looked like what used to come from the G-8—lofty goals, few specifics.

France and Germany sought tough caps to penalize greedy bankers. The U.S. had objections. The result: a proposal that calls for regulators to better link pay to performance but without any binding caps.

That's disappointing to people angry about a return of big paydays for bankers whose institutions received massive government bailouts only a few months ago.

Then there was the U.S. effort to force countries to follow stronger capital standards. The idea is to help prevent another financial meltdown.

Banks got in trouble last year because they did not have enough capital, the reserves used to cushion against losses from bad loans and other sour investments.

The G-20 did adopt the broad outlines of a tougher approach to capital. But before new rules are written and take effect, expect heavy opposition from banks upset that the rules could cut into their profits.

$1 million going further in many housing markets

By ADRIAN SAINZ
AP REAL ESTATE WRITER

A million dollars doesn't buy you what it once did. In most U.S. neighborhoods, it now gets you a lot more.

During the housing boom, prices rose so high and so fast that even cookie-cutter homes in the paved suburbs of South Florida and California could cost a cool million. In Santa Clara, Calif., a high-tech hot spot, the median price hit $836,780 in 2007.

That was a long way from the days when a million-dollar home evoked images of marble columns and swimming pools with vanishing edges. Subprime loans allowed more people than ever to buy houses that were once above their means. Higher demand fueled ever-higher prices until the spigot of cheap money was turned off and the housing bubble burst. The recession forced many well-heeled buyers into unemployment lines. And sales of homes over $1 million cratered by more than 50 percent from the peak four years ago.

"Everyone has less money than they once had," said Amy Wright, an agent with The Real Estate Office in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. "That has certainly affected the nouveau riche, and that's definitely in that $1 million price point."

For people who do have the money, however, it's the best time in years to buy luxury real estate.

Rancho Santa Fe is a luxury enclave in San Diego County that has over the years lured the likes of Howard Hughes and Bill Gates. Equestrian trails border golf courses, and the most expensive home on the market is listed for $29.9 million.

A couple of years ago, the idea of getting a house in Rancho Santa Fe for a paltry $1 million was laughable. Now, foreclosures and financially distressed homeowners account for about 15 percent of sales, and home prices are down 30 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Chrysler trying to refit Fiats so they sell in US

DETROIT (AP)—Chrysler thinks its future may be in a new lineup of smaller cars based on models from Italian partner Fiat. The question is how to make them for Americans put off by stiff suspensions, firm seats and—perish the thought—not enough cupholders. The problem is further complicated because Americans generally are plumper and taller than Western Europeans, and they're used to driving fatter and longer cars on wider roads. It's a dilemma faced by nearly all automakers as they try to hold down development costs by tailoring cars to sell around the globe. But at no company is the problem more acute than Chrysler, where a wholesale lineup change is needed quickly to boost sagging sales.

Hyatt says fired Boston workers offered new jobs

BOSTON (AP)—Hyatt Hotel Corp., under pressure after dismissing nearly 100 housekeepers from its three Boston hotels, promised Friday that the workers would be offered new full-time jobs elsewhere in the area. Gov. Deval Patrick had urged state employees to stop doing business with Hyatt unless the housekeepers were rehired. A union representing about 1,700 Boston taxi drivers also threatened to boycott the hotels. In a statement, Hyatt said the housekeepers would be offered jobs not with Hyatt but with a Boston affiliate of United Service Companies, a staffing agency. The workers would be guaranteed the pay that they received at Hyatt through the end of 2010, with Hyatt extending health care coverage through March, after which they could obtain coverage through their new employer.

Bear Stearns stockholder sues its former execs

NEW YORK (AP)—Bear Stearns' largest stockholder has sued the company's former top executives and an auditor in New York, saying they fraudulently overstated the value of the company's stock. Bruce Sherman, who owned 5.9 percent of the company's shares, filed the lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan on Thursday. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. Sherman accumulated his shares as chief executive officer of Private Capital Management. He says he bought shares and advised others to do the same based on the representations of the company and its auditor, Deloitte & Touche LLP. JPMorgan Chase bought the nearly collapsed investment bank in May 2008. A JPMorgan Chase spokesman declined to comment. Deloitte said in a statement that the lawsuit lacks merit and will be fought vigorously.

Nation

Feds: Zazi trips, shopping led to NY terror threat

NEW YORK (AP)—It was midsummer in suburban Denver when an unassuming, bearded man pushed a red shopping cart between shelves stacked with hair coloring and nail polish remover.

By the time Najibullah Zazi checked into a nearby hotel suite with a kitchen in September, he had at least 18 bottles of peroxide-based hair lighteners and pages of notes for how to turn the beauty products into bombs, authorities say.

Prosecutors say the otherwise mundane movements of the 24-year-old airport shuttle driver—who sold Wall Streeters coffee for years from his cart in downtown Manhattan and returned to the spot, not far from ground zero, on his recent two-day trip to the city—masked a dire terrorist threat.

The peroxide purchases, Zazi's prayer at a local mosque on the eve of his planned attack and a cross-country trip back to his Queens neighborhood, authorities say, are steps in his evolution from a struggling immigrant who was a teenager on Sept. 11, 2001, to a full-blown terrorist plotting to bomb the city on the attacks' eighth anniversary.

Many questions about charges that Zazi became a terrorist over the past year—and who was helping him—remain unanswered. Prosecutors refer to "others" who accompanied him on an August 2008 flight to Pakistan for terrorism training, by which time he had come to authorities' attention, and who shopped with him in Aurora, Colo., for chemicals that could be turned into bombs. But neither accomplices nor explosives has turned up; Zazi's father and a Queens imam face charges only of lying to terrorism investigators, and they deny the allegations.

AP

In this photo released by the New York City Police Department, Najibullah Zazi, center, is escorted off an NYPD helicopter by U.S Marshals after being extradited from Denver, Colo., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009.

Zazi, jailed on charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, publicly proclaimed his innocence in recent days to anyone who asked. His plainspoken defense to The Associated Press outside his Colorado home days before his arrest: "I'm an airport driver, and that's all I can say."

Zazi "maintains that he was not part of a terrorist cell," his attorney Arthur Folsom said Friday.

But information from court papers, interviews with friends and relatives and an e-mail trail stretching from Pakistan to Colorado portray a terrorism suspect who until last year had led an unremarkable, working-class immigrant's life.

Zazi was born in Afghanistan in 1985, moving with his parents and siblings to neighboring Pakistan at age 7, his family said. At 14—two years before the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center—he moved to America, settling in Queens to join family members who made livings as cab drivers and operators of curbside coffee stands.

Obama addresses Black Caucus on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday resumed his push to overhaul the health care system, telling a Congressional Black Caucus conference that there comes a time when "the cup of endurance runs over."

"We have been waiting for health reform since the days of Teddy Roosevelt. We've been waiting since the days of Harry Truman," he said in remarks at the caucus foundation's annual dinner. "We've been waiting since Johnson and Nixon and Clinton."

"We cannot wait any longer," Obama said.

Obama spent the past week largely focused on global and economic issues in meetings with world leaders in New York and Pittsburgh.

At the G-20 economic summit that wrapped up Friday in Pennsylvania, Obama told a story about an unnamed foreign leader who privately told the president he didn't understand the at-times contentious debate over changing the health care system.

"He says, 'We don't understand it. You're trying to make sure everybody has health care and they're putting a Hitler mustache on you. That doesn't make sense to me,'" Obama said, quoting the world leader he declined to identify.

The reference to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was to signs some people have waved outside of often testy town hall meetings around the country this summer where lawmakers discussed Obama's health care plan.

In the speech, Obama described his plan as one that would not require people with coverage to change anything but would make health insurance affordable for the millions of people who don't have any. Republicans dispute those claims.

The Senate Finance Committee is in the process of amending a health care bill introduced by Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Before becoming president, Obama was the only senator in the all-Democratic caucus, which now has 42 members. He wasn't particularly active in the group and isn't especially close to many of its members.

Animosity toward the president and his policies has bubbled up in recent weeks, most notably with Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., shouting "You lie!" at Obama during the president's recent health care speech to Congress.

Calif. mourners remember Yale student's fun spirit

EL DORADO HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Family members of the Yale University doctoral student found murdered on what was to be her wedding day said they'll always remember the beaming smile and fun-loving spirit of the brilliant woman who hoped to change the world through her medical research.

"She always brought a smile to our faces," said Annie Le's cousin, Dan Nguyen, one of several speakers who eulogized Le at her funeral Saturday in California's Sierra Nevada foothills, near where Le grew up.

Obama

Le's mother, Vivian Van Le, read a poem she had written in Vietnamese that was translated by another brother, Chris Le.

"Farewell my child ... the most wonderful gift that God had sent to me," Le's mother said, going on to describe her daughter's death as being "like a knife searing through my soul."

The service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Dorado Hills, about 30 miles east of Sacramento, follows a memorial service earlier in the week at the Long Island synagogue of Le's fiance, Jonathan Widawsky.

As about 600 mourners filed in Saturday, the church's pastor, Monsignor James Kidder, called the service conducted in English and Vietnamese "a chance for the family itself to come to reconciliation with what humanly is irreconcilable—not only the fact that Annie died but the way she died."

Kidder called Le "a rare person ... a person who is naturally good."

Le was busy but always had time for others, he said. "She was lots of fun and she had a wicked sense of humor."

Kidder had been Le's pastor until she graduated from Union Mine High School near Placerville and left for college. He said her family was seeking healing from Saturday's funeral and burial.

Lab technician Raymond Clark III has been charged with killing Le, 24, five days before her body was found on Sept. 13, the Sunday she was to marry Widawsky. She had been stuffed inside a wall in the basement of a research building in Yale's medical school complex.

Crashed helicopter ran into poor weather in SC

GEORGETOWN, S.C. (AP)—A medical helicopter that crashed in coastal South Carolina, killing all three crew members on board, had run into bad weather and was trying to land at a nearby airport, federal safety investigators said Saturday.

The helicopter had just dropped off a patient at a hospital in Charleston and was flying to Conway, about 90 miles to the northeast, when it crashed about 11:30 p.m. Friday in Georgetown County, said Peter Knudson, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board.

A thunderstorm had rolled through the Georgetown area shortly before the crash, according to the National Weather Service.

Robert Sumwalt, an NTSB member, said the crew had reported to its company, Texas-based OmniFlight, that they were trying to land.

The helicopter landed nose-first, was upside-down, and it was "completely unrecognizable, completely consumed in the post-crash fire," Sumwalt said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation, but Sumwalt said it did not appear that the helicopter caught fire or had any structural failure while in flight.

The same helicopter, an American Eurocopter AS350B2, was damaged last year after scheduled maintenance on the aircraft was delayed, according to NTSB records.

Sumwalt declined to comment on last year's incident, but said the maintenance history would be part of the investigation.

Omniflight identified the crew members killed: pilot Patrick Walters, 45, of Murrells Inlet; flight nurse Diana Conner, 42, of Florence; and paramedic Randolph Claxton Dove, 39, of Bladenboro, N.C.

On its Web site, Omniflight says the company operates 100 aircraft from 72 bases in 18 states with 1,000 employees.

ACROSS THE NATION

Murder-suicide confirmed in Md. family's deaths

MOUNT AIRY, Md. (AP)—A home-improvement worker and school janitor who apparently was struggling to survive the recession killed his sleeping wife and two children before turning the 12-gauge shotgun on himself, Maryland State Police said Saturday. Charles L. Dalton, 38, left no suicide note and police haven't clearly identified a motive for the murders, spokesman Greg Shipley said. "It is possible that financial difficulties were part of the motive," he said. Police announced the findings one day after the bodies of Dalton, his wife Jennifer, 37, and their children Charles Jr., 14, and Emmaline, 7, were found in their home in Mount Airy, a Fredrick County town of 8,800 about 30 miles west of Baltimore.

Texas panel reviews ruling that led to execution

CORSICANA, Texas (AP)—More than five years after his final act from the Texas death chamber gurney was a profanity-filled tirade, the murder case of executed inmate Cameron Todd Willingham refuses to die. Willingham was executed in February 2004—proclaiming his innocence and hoping aloud that his wife would "rot in hell"—for the deaths of his three young daughters in a fire at their Corsicana home on Dec. 23, 1991. An arson finding by investigators was key to his conviction in the circumstantial case. The Innocence Project, a nonprofit legal organization that investigates possible wrongful convictions, questioned Willingham's guilt. Now the Texas Forensic Science Commission will review a report Friday from an expert it hired who concluded the original arson determination was faulty.

NY congresswoman's husband dies on mountain climb

NEW YORK (AP)—The husband of U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney has died on a mountain climbing expedition in the Himalayas, aides to the congresswoman said Saturday. Clifton Maloney, a millionaire investment banker and avid climber, was resting in a high-altitude camp after a successful ascent to the summit of the world's sixth-highest mountain when he died. He was 71, a late age for such a grueling endeavor, but had been in excellent health, aides said. "I am told that his last words were, 'I am the happiest man in the world. I just climbed a beautiful mountain,'" said Barry Nolan, a congressional aide who works with Carolyn Maloney.

Asia

RP storm leaves 72 dead and missing

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers stepped up their efforts in the northern Philippines on Sunday as the skies started to clear a day after a tropical storm tore through and left more than 70 people killed or missing in the worst flooding in more than four decades.

The government declared a "state of calamity" in metropolitan Manila and 25 storm-hit provinces, allowing officials to utilize emergency funds for relief and rescue, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said. Army troops, police and civilian volunteers have rescued more than 4,000 people.

Tropical Storm Ketsana roared across the northern Philippines near Manila on Saturday, dumping more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours. The resulting landslides and flooding have left at least 51 people dead and 21 others missing, Teodoro said.

Distress calls and e-mails from thousands of residents in metropolitan Manila and their worried relatives flooded TV and radio stations overnight. Ketsana swamped entire towns, set off landslides and shut down Manila's airport for several hours.

Military chief Gen. Victor Ibrado, accompanied by journalists, flew over several suburban Manila towns Sunday on board air force helicopters and saw many people still waiting to be rescued on roofs of their houses in flooded villages.

"My son is sick and alone. He has no food and he may be waiting on the roof of his house. Please get somebody to save him," a weeping housewife, Mary Coloma, told radio DZBB.

AP

A boy carries his brother thru waist deep waters following floodings brought about by tropical storm Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) Saturday Sept. 26, 2009 in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines.

The sun shone briefly in Manila on Sunday and showed the extent of devastation in many neighborhoods—destroyed houses, overturned vans and cars, and streets and highways covered in debris and mud.

"The flooding was so grave it inundated many communities for the first time," said provincial disaster-response official Loel Malonzo of hilly Rizal province, where more than 40 people drowned or perished in landslides.

"People were trapped in their houses. Some who tried to escape were swept away by the flood," Malonzo told The Associated Press by telephone.

The 16.7 inches (42.4 centimeters) of rain that swamped metropolitan Manila in just 12 hours on Saturday exceeded the 15.4-inch (39.2-centimeter) average for September, Cruz said, adding that the rainfall broke the previous record of 13.2 inches (33.4 centimeters) in a 24-hour period in June 1967.

Garbage-choked drains and waterways, along with high tide, compounded the problem, officials said.

ABS-CBN television showed a dramatic video of more than a dozen people perched on roofs of damaged houses being swept away by the suburban Marikina River. They smashed against the pillars of a bridge and were separated from each other in the rampaging river. It was unclear whether they were rescued.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had to take an elevated commuter train to the disaster council office to preside over a meeting Saturday because roads were clogged by vehicles stuck in the floodwaters.

Ketsana, which packed winds of 53 mph (85 kph) with gusts of up to 63 mph (100 kph), hit land early Saturday then roared across the main northern Luzon island toward the South China Sea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Lead poisons 121 children in eastern China

BEIJING (AP)—Medical tests have shown at least 121 children living near a battery plant in eastern China are suffering from lead poisoning, the latest in a recent string of such cases that have affected hundreds. Two medical agencies tested 287 children younger than 14 years of age for lead poisoning and found 121 of them had excessive levels of lead in their blood, the government of Shanghang county in Fujian province said in a statement late Saturday. An investigation was ongoing, it said. The discovery of clusters of lead poisoning in recent weeks has sparked unrest and growing anger in China over public safety scandals in which children have been the main victims. The ruling Communist party is worried that mass protests will threaten the country's social stability and considers them a serious challenge to its grip on power.

US forces move into central Afghan city

NILI, Afghanistan (AP)—The soldiers hesitated as the mullah preached, unsure if they would be welcome at the celebration of one of Islam's highest holidays. But when the sermon ended, the Afghans draped bright scarves over the soldiers' tanned necks. Then they pushed Chief Warrant Officer Chaka, a Puerto Rican with a thick black beard and a deep tan who could easily pass for Afghan, up front to speak. Chaka thanked the elders and showed them his hands stained orange for the Eid celebration. "This is our home away from home," said Chaka. "We wanted to come over and be with our neighbors."

Climate talks resume in Bangkok with deal in doubt

BANGKOK (AP)—Two years ago, governments from around the world came together on the island of Bali and agreed to urgently rein in the heat-trapping gases blamed for deadly heat waves, melting glaciers and rising seas. But with just over two months left to reach a deal at a conference in Copenhagen on fighting climate change, negotiations have bogged down over the big issues of emissions targets and financing for poor nations. The climate negotiations resume Monday in Bangkok, but a growing chorus of voices is warning a pact may be out of reach this year. "The odds of concluding a final comprehensive treaty in Copenhagen are vanishingly small. Many world leaders have started to acknowledge that," said Michael Levi, the David M. Rubenstein senior fellow for energy and the environment at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

World

Iran to allow IAEA visit, inspect nuclear site

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Saturday it will allow U.N. nuclear inspectors to examine its newly revealed, still unfinished uranium enrichment facility as world criticism mounted over the underground site that was developed secretly.

The presence of a second uranium-enrichment site that could potentially produce material for a nuclear weapon has provided one of the strongest indications yet that Iran has something to hide—despite its repeated assertions that its program is only to generate electric power.

That impression was reinforced by a close aide to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said the site will be operational "soon" and would pose a threat to those who oppose Iran.

"This new facility, God willing, will become operational soon and will blind the eyes of the enemies," Mohammad Mohammadi Golpayegani told the semi-official Fars news agency.

The existence of the secret site was first revealed by Western intelligence officials and diplomats on Friday. It is located in the arid mountains near the holy city of Qom, inside a heavily guarded, underground facility belonging to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, according to a document sent by the Obama administration to lawmakers.

The revelation of the secret site has given greater urgency to a key meeting on Thursday in Geneva between Iran and six major powers trying to stop its suspected nuclear weapons program.

UN *urges Asian nations to get tougher on Myanmar*

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged a ministerial meeting of southeast Asian nations late Saturday to take a tougher line with fellow member Myanmar in hopes its military junta will free political prisoners and hold fair elections.

Ban said it is in the best interest of the rest of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations to lean on Myanmar to free political prisoners, including democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The 64-year-old Nobel Peace laureate has been in detention for 14 of the last 20 years, since leading a pro-democracy uprising that was crushed by Myanmar's military junta.

ASEAN members generally refrain from criticizing one another, however.

"Our collective interest is to find ways to encourage Myanmar to free Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, start a genuine political dialogue and create conditions conducive to credible elections," Ban said.

Germans vote amid economic issues, Islamic threats

BERLIN (AP)—Germans decide Sunday whether to return the nation's first woman chancellor to a second term in office following a lackluster campaign centered largely on economic issues and a rash of last-minute threats by Islamic extremists.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is hoping enough of the nation's 62.2 million eligible voters will support her conservative Christian Democratic Party to give them a solid enough standing to form a center-right coalition with their top partners, the Free Democrats.

In one of the final surveys before the polls were to open at 8:00 a.m. (0600GMT; 2 a.m. EDT) Sunday indicated the conservatives could capture 33 percent of the vote, while the Free Democrats were supported by 14 percent in the poll by the Forsa institute.

WORLD BRIEFS

New swine flu wave hits Mexico, closings unlikely

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The next wave of swine flu has arrived, and Mexicans are bracing for an outbreak that may be even larger than the one here last spring that became a pandemic. Daily diagnoses reached higher levels in September than the H1N1 peak in April, with 483 new cases in just one day this month alone. It's unlikely there will be large-scale closings of schools and stadiums, however, because health officials know the virus is usually mild if treated early. "We know the situation is not as serious" as officials feared last spring, said Health Secretary Jose Angel Cordova.

Gadhafi, Chavez promote Africa-South America ties

PORLAMAR, Venezuela (AP)—Moammar Gadhafi and Hugo Chavez urged nearly 30 leaders from throughout Africa and South America on Saturday to form a strong intercontinental alliance to make the two regions a new global power. The Libyan leader, on his first visit to the Americas, called for the two regions to become a political and economic force, saying that together "we can transform the world." Gadhafi proposed a defense alliance of South American and African nations, calling it "a NATO of the South"—an idea Chavez has raised with other allies in the past.

Honduran businessmen at center of coup dispute

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Die-hard supporters of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya are increasingly turning their anger toward the country's wealthy business elite, a small but powerful cadre that largely backs the interim government officials who removed him at gunpoint three months ago. The capital is now covered with graffiti demanding "Turks out!"—a reference to the Central American country's large number of business people of Middle Eastern descent—and on Saturday pro-Zelaya marchers lashed out at the elite's dominance over wealth in a country where millions are poor. "They own almost the whole country," pro-Zelaya protester Arnoldo Pagoaga, a medical doctor who marched in his white uniform, said Saturday. "They're terrorists. ... They own the army, and sic it on us."

Health & Fitness

Barefoot-running movement gains a toehold

By STEPHANIE DESMON
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

BALTIMORE—David Engwall got home from work the other day, slipped on his workout clothes and left for a run, his sneakers still at the door. Yes, that guy jogging down Poplar Avenue is barefoot.

The only one in Arbutus, an area in Baltimore County, who will run with a barefoot Engwall is his frisky dog, Beans. It isn't that his fiancee, Galina Portnoy, is embarrassed to be seen with him. She's just worried the 26-year-old will step on a piece of broken glass or pick up some bacteria.

"She threatened to call my mother," he said.

Engwall is part of a mini-movement of barefoot runners that has taken shape over the better part of the decade and appears to be gaining ground. One driving force behind it is an underground theory that the expensive running shoes everyone is wearing actually could be contributing to jogging injuries. The runners say our feet have become weak because the fancy sneakers with their arch supports and thick cushioning do all the work. They point to cultures with long traditions of long-distance shoeless running, to the barefoot Ethiopian athlete who won the marathon at the Rome Olympics in 1960, to Zola Budd, the world-class South African runner who trained and competed without shoes.

And many new converts seem to have been inspired by "the book," Christopher McDougall's "Born to Run," released in May. At its heart is the true story of the Tarahumara Indians, a tribe isolated in some of Mexico's most treacherous terrain and whose members can run hundreds of miles with ease—and without Nikes.

McDougall writes that there were few running injuries before the 1970s, when Nike introduced the first cushioned running shoe. The author has taken up ultramarathoning and reportedly trains barefoot, believing that's the way humans were meant to run.

"Obviously, it's resonating with people," said Dr. A. Ben Pearl, a podiatrist in Arlington, Va., who has spoken on barefoot running. "It's become a culture of its own."

Pearl said there isn't enough data to know whether barefoot running is safe or if it prevents injuries. He says people in good shape shouldn't be afraid to try it, but they must start slowly. Their feet need to develop calluses. The rest of the body has to adapt. When barefoot, Pearl said, a runner touches more lightly on the heel and lands more on the ball of the foot, which is different than the way a runner in standard shoes tends to strike the ground. This takes getting used to.

"Sometimes people get so committed to the idea of barefoot running that if something happens to them, `It's something else,' " Pearl said. "They rationalize it."

"It's unlikely to be incredibly harmful for people with normal feet," said Dr. Gregory Guyton, an orthopedic surgeon at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore who specializes in foot and ankle reconstruction. "There's a lot of people that have run barefoot for a long time on this Earth."

THE BALTIMORE SUN

David Engwall displays a pair of his thin, ultralight shoes, called Five Fingers. The footwear is something of a runner's compromise between traditional shoes and bare feet. Il

THE BALTIMORE SUN

David Engwall, shown roaming about with his dog, Beans, in Arbutus, Md., is part of a fledgling movement of joggers who eschew modern running shoes on the belief that running barefoot actually reduces the risk of injury.

With the appropriate caveats—don't run three shoeless miles on your first try, for one—"I wouldn't object to a patient of mine who said, `I want to take up barefoot running,' " Guyton said.

But he cautions that there is no evidence that high-tech running shoes are to blame for jogging injuries or that barefoot running is a cure-all. He says much of the research out there is not of high quality.

"A lot of claims," he said. "No solid data."

Not everyone in the "barefoot running" movement is actually running shoeless. They are simply shunning the "advancements" in shoe technology and looking back to a time when running shoes had flat soles, no arch support, no motion control.

Shoe companies have seen an opportunity. Nike's answer is what it calls the Free, a throwback shoe with little support.

Then there are the Vibram Five Fingers, thin, ultralight shoes designed for boaters. They fit the foot like a glove, with each toe getting its own individual compartment. The main protection offered is against road debris. Some say you can feel the grass between your toes as you run. And these "barefoot shoes" cost as much as fancy running shoes.

Engwall, a substance abuse counselor, has a pair. He thinks they look like bear's feet. He wears them only when he runs with his fiancee.

Larry Ellcessor's wife, Elena, read "Born to Run" and was captivated by it.

"She's a reader, not a runner," the Catonsville man explained.

When he read it, especially the part about the shoes, everything started to click. The 38-year-old has been running since high school, where he was on the cross country team, but he always has been finicky about what he puts on his feet. He usually buys the lightest sneakers he can find, after too many experiences wearing shoes that felt like he was running in clogs.

Last week, the electrical engineer decided to head out shoeless, on blacktop, on sidewalks, on freshly mowed grass, on a busy road, along quiet, tree-lined streets.

"Sometimes the pavement or grass is OK," he said. "Sometimes, ouch, I stepped on something. The hills seemed effortless. ...

"I ran by McDonald's. Someone said, `Shouldn't you be wearing shoes?' "

He ran three miles on Day One. Then five miles the second time. He has no plans to run in shoes again.

"I think you're going to see a lot more people doing it in the next year or so," Ellcessor said.

The Stanford University cross country team has famously practiced barefoot. A few marathoners race shoeless.

Even carefully selected foods won't make you immune to the flu

By JENNIFER LARUE HUGET
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

As we begin hearing of outbreaks of H1N1 flu, many of us are looking for ways to stay healthy this fall and winter.

Being a nutrition writer, I naturally figured food has got to help. Indeed, Googling "foods that boost immune system" turns up lots of lists: lists of the 8 foods, 10 foods, 12 foods, even 21 foods that promise to build your body's immunity. The idea is that consuming certain foods or particular nutrients helps your body protect itself from getting sick, no matter what nasty germs come its way.

If only it were so simple. If fending off infections were as easy as gorging on blueberries (for the antioxidants) or gobbling yogurt (for its helpful bacteria, or probiotics), many of us could sail through cold and flu season with nary a sneeze.

But experts agree that it's a lot more complicated than that. There's no single food—or even group of foods—that can be counted on to do the trick.

"The immune system is the result of an extremely complex interplay of various functions within the body," said Darwin Deen, senior attending physician in Montefiore Medical Center's department of family and social medicine in New York. "We know that if the system is deficient, you're susceptible to infection. That's the case with HIV. But we also know that if the system is hypersensitive, you'll have allergies, and if it's turned toward the wrong tissue, you have autoimmunity"—where the body turns on itself. So efforts to "boost" the system, even through diet, might produce unintended consequences.

It's not reasonable to expect that one food will substantially enhance your immune response, Deen said.

"We haven't done a very good job of identifying nutrients that boost immunity," he added. "To say that there are nutrients that are important to the immune system implies that there are nutrients that are not important to the immune system."

In fact, more useful than eating certain foods is to eat "on a regular basis," Deen said. "Every time you eat something, you're asking the immune system to respond to what you put in your mouth." The idea is to "keep the immune system busy" so it's ready to leap into action when you need it most.

In particular, Deen said, eating protein encourages the body to "generate antibodies used by the immune system."

In any case, good hygiene is far more important to fending off a virus than eating certain foods. "You can't drink a glass of orange juice before school and say, `Now I don't have to wash my hands,' " Deen said.

Christine Gerbstadt, a physician and registered dietitian in Sarasota, Fla., and a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association, says the familiar prescription of a well-rounded, healthful diet can provide the central nutrients your body (including the immune system) needs to stay healthy.

She suggests "quick, small combinations" of a variety of useful foods: "Have some whole-grain bread with vegetables and low-fat cheese, add some cucumbers, tomatoes, mushrooms, cabbage or red pepper, and it's easy to get all the building blocks." And don't be swayed by immunity-boosting claims of the latest superfoods, be they almonds or blueberries, pomegranates or strawberries. They're generally backed by trade groups, she says, whose focus is narrow—and self-serving.

Finally, Gerbstadt notes some recent interesting research: In one study, overweight rats whose calorie intake was severely restricted experienced improved immune function. In another, mice that consumed a high-fat, high-sugar diet saw that function reduced. Those findings, if replicated in humans, could provide yet another reason to lose weight and eat less junk food.

In the meantime, food remains just part of the equation. Aside from flu shots, "living right, washing hands and taking care of yourself are the best immune defenses," Gerbstadt says.

Mark Kantor, an associate professor of nutrition and food science at the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, agrees with Deen's and Gerbstadt's approach.

"My feeling is that you need to have a healthy diet in general to have a generally healthy immune system," he says. "Sure, there are some nutrients known to play a role," including the antioxidants Vitamin E and Vitamin C, the minerals selenium and zinc, Vitamin D and fish oils containing omega-3 fatty acids. "Yes, these nutrients are important, but that doesn't mean that eating lots of them will necessarily boost your immune system."

While Vitamin C and zinc, for instance, clearly are vital to the immune system, Kantor said, "we don't have widespread deficiencies" of those nutrients, so most of us don't need to intentionally consume more. Plus, he said, "I don't think there's any evidence that higher doses of these reduces the risk of getting sick."

Kantor suggests that we look instead at "which key nutrient you're not getting enough of in the first place." For most people, he said, those include the omega-3 fatty acids (found in fish oils, they help protect against inflammation, which Kantor said is closely linked to immune response) and Vitamin D, in which recent research has shown most people are deficient.

"Really, there's not that much you can do in terms of your diet to protect yourself against the H1N1 virus" or any other such bug, he said. "As much as people want to believe otherwise, if you catch it, you're going to get it."

Life & Style

Charles Manson follower Susan Atkins dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Susan Atkins, a member of the Charles Manson "family" who admitted ruthlessly stabbing pregnant actress Sharon Tate to death in the cult's 1969 murder spree, has died in prison less than a month after a parole board turned down a bid for compassionate release. She was 61 and had brain cancer.

Atkins, who eventually came to call the crimes a sin, died late Thursday, according to the California Department of Corrections.

Corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton said that at the time of Atkins' death she had been in prison longer than any woman currently incarcerated in California.

Atkins' final chance at freedom was denied on Sept. 2. Terminally ill, she was brought to a parole board hearing on a gurney and slept through most of it, but managed to recite religious verse with the help of her husband, attorney James Whitehouse.

Atkins was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2008, had a leg amputated and was given only a few months to live. She underwent brain surgery, and in her last months was paralyzed and had difficulty speaking.

She had been transferred to a skilled nursing facility at the California Central Women's Facility at Chowchilla exactly one year before she died.

Tate, the 26-year-old actress who appeared in the movie "Valley of the Dolls" and was the wife of famed director Roman Polanski, was one of seven people murdered in two Los Angeles homes during the Manson cult's bloody rampage in August 1969.

Atkins was the first of the convicted killers to die. Manson and three others involved in the murders—Patricia Krenwinkel, Leslie Van Houten and Charles "Tex" Watson—remain imprisoned under life sentences.

Atkins, who confessed from the witness stand during her trial, had apologized for her acts numerous times over the years. But 40 years after the murders, she learned that few had forgotten or forgiven what she and other members of the cult had done.

AP

Convicted murderer and former Charles Manson family member, Susan Atkins, is seen in a bed during her parole hearing in this Sept. 2, 2009, file photo taken at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, Calif.

Debra Tate, the slain actress' younger sister, told the parole commissioners Sept. 2 that she "will pray for (Atkins') soul when she draws her last breath, but until then I think she should remain in this controlled situation." Debra Tate noted that she would have a 40-year-old nephew if her sister had lived.

Atkins' prosecutor, Vincent Bugliosi, had spoken out earlier in favor of release, saying the mercy requested was "minuscule" because Atkins was on her deathbed.

Atkins and her co-defendants were originally sentenced to death but their sentences were reduced to life in prison when capital punishment was briefly outlawed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1970s.

During the sensational 10-month trial, Atkins, Manson and co-defendants Krenwinkel and Van Houten maintained their innocence. But once they were convicted, the so-called "Manson girls" confessed in graphic detail.

They tried to absolve Manson, the ex-convict who had gathered a "family" of dropouts and runaways to a ranch outside Los Angeles, where he cast himself as the Messiah and led them in an aberrant lifestyle fueled by drugs and communal sex.

Watson had a separate trial and was convicted.

One night in August 1969, Manson dispatched Atkins and others to a wealthy residential section of Los Angeles, telling them, as they recalled, to "do something witchy."

They went to the home of Tate and her husband. He was not home, but Tate, who was 8 1/2 months pregnant, and four others were killed. "Pigs" was scrawled on a door in blood.

The next night, a wealthy grocer and his wife were found stabbed to death in their home across town. "Helter Skelter" was written in blood on the refrigerator.

"I was stoned, man, stoned on acid," Atkins testified during the trial's penalty phase.

"I don't know how many times I stabbed (Tate) and I don't know why I stabbed her," she said. "She kept begging and pleading and begging and pleading and I got sick of listening to it, so I stabbed her."

She said she felt "no guilt for what I've done. It was right then and I still believe it was right." Asked how it could be right to kill, she replied in a dreamy voice, "How can it not be right when it's done with love?"

The matronly, gray-haired Atkins who appeared before a parole board in 2000 cut a far different figure than that of the cocky young defendant some 30 years earlier.

"I don't have to just make amends to the victims and families," she said softly. "I have to make amends to society. I sinned against God and everything this country stands for." She said she had found redemption in Christianity.

The last words she spoke in public at the September hearing were to say in unison with her husband: "My God is an amazing God."

She spent 37 years in the California Institution for Women at Frontera. When she fell ill, she was moved to a medical unit at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. She died there.

Susan Denise Atkins was born May 7, 1948, in the Los Angeles suburb of San Gabriel. Her mother was stricken with cancer and died when she was 15. Her father, reportedly an alcoholic, sent her and her brother to live with relatives.

While still in her teens, she ran away to San Francisco where she wound up dancing in a topless bar and using drugs. She moved into a commune in the Haight Ashbury district and it was there that she met Manson.

He gave her a cult name, Sadie Mae Glutz, and, when she became pregnant by a "family" member, he helped deliver the baby boy, naming it Zezozoze Zadfrack. His whereabouts are unknown.

The Manson slayings remained unsolved for three months, until Atkins confessed to a cellmate following her arrest on an unrelated charge. Police found Manson and other cult members living in a ranch commune in Death Valley, outside Los Angeles.

Besides Tate, their other victims were celebrity hairdresser Jay Sebring, coffee heiress Abigail Folger, filmmaker Voityck Frykowski and Steven Parent, a friend of Tate's caretaker; and grocery owners Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. Atkins also was convicted with Manson of still another murder, of musician Gary Hinman, in July 1969.

Atkins married twice while in prison. Her first husband, Donald Lee Laisure, purported to be an eccentric Texas millionaire. They quickly divorced. Whitehouse, her second husband, is a Harvard Law School graduate and had recently served as one of her attorneys.

Police: TV contestant killed actress girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A self-proclaimed preacher who was on the TV beauty pageant "The Sexiest Bachelor in America" will be arraigned next week for allegedly torturing and murdering his girlfriend, an ex-adult movie actress.

Brian Lee Randone, 45, was charged last week with one count of murder and one count of torture. He was scheduled for arraignment on Sept. 29 and faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Randone remained jailed Friday on $2 million bail. Robison did not know whether he had an attorney.

Randone was arrested on Sept. 11. Prosecutors said he beat and choked Felicia Lee during a domestic dispute at their apartment in the foothill community of Monrovia, northeast of Los Angeles.

He then dialed 911 to report she was unconscious, investigators said.

"It appeared to be torture prior to the murder," Sgt. Brian Schoonmaker, a homicide detective working the case, said Friday. Lee apparently suffered dozens of injuries in the 24 hours before she died, Schoonmaker said, but he did not provide details.

The two had lived together for only a few months, Schoonmaker said. Investigators were still trying to determine the motive for the killing.

In 2000, Randone appeared on the Fox special "The Sexiest Bachelor in America." He vied with contestants from other states but did not win.

A Fox spokeswoman said Friday that she was not immediately familiar with the show.

Lee, who was born in Singapore, had parts in the movies "Rush Hour 2" and "The Fast and the Furious" and had done some modeling for the Playboy television channel, according to her Web site, which she shut down last year.

AP

This undated image provided Friday Sept. 25, 2009 by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department shows Brian Lee Randone.

She also appeared in several adult movies under the name Felicia Tang. Candace Kita, a model who had worked with her, said Lee was nude in the movies but did not portray any sex acts.

Randone was involved in ministry as a mime and did "some evangelistic types of entertainment," Schoonmaker said. He did not know when or where Randone performed.

According to the CBS blog "48 Hours Crimesider," Randone had a Web site in the early 2000s advertising a ministry that offered "critically-acclaimed performances."

According to "Crimesider," Randone said on the Web site that he had no plans to "try to be sexy" in the pageant, where he represented his home state of Nebraska.

"I hope to talk about qualities that are really important, what's inside, such as faithfulness, love, commitment and self-control, the masculine characteristics of a Christian," he said.

He also wrote that "we are all sinners" and that sin "is as small as thinking a bad thought and/or as big as murder."

"Because of sin, we deserve hell. I know that if there is one thing I deserve in life its (sic) hell," he said.

Randone has a bachelor's degree from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and a master's of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune reported.

He worked as a mime on the campus of Baylor University in Texas in 1996, the newspaper said.

Lee's murder is reminiscent of another case last month, in which Ryan Jenkins, a former contestant on the reality TV show "Megan Wants a Millionaire," allegedly killed his wife, ex-model Jasmine Fiore, in Los Angeles, then fled to Canada and killed himself.

Renowned Spanish pianist de Larrocha dies at 86

MADRID (AP)—Spanish pianist Alicia de Larrocha, who thrilled music listeners for decades with polished and enthralling interpretations of great classical works and Spanish masters, has died aged 86.

Measuring just under 5 foot (1.52 meters), and with unusually small hands for a piano virtuoso, de Larrocha won listeners over with the richness and robustness of her sound.

Critically acclaimed for her technique in performing Mozart, Beethoven, Schuman and Rachmaninov, de Larrocha was also seen as unrivaled in her interpretation of Spanish composers such as Manuel de Falla as well as masters from her native Catalonia like Enrique Granados and Isaac Albeniz.

Gregor Benko, a piano music expert, music producer and family friend, confirmed her death. Benko said de Larrocha had been in poor health for two years, since breaking her hip. She died late Friday in a Barcelona hospital.

De Larrocha retired from public performances in 2003 after 75 years as a professional pianist.

Born in Barcelona on May 23, 1923, she began playing piano at the age of 3, and two years later gave her debut public performance during the International Exposition in Barcelona. Four years later an eager music industry had pressed and marketed her first vinyl record.

The daughter and niece of pianists, as a child de Larrocha received classes from renowned teachers such as Frank Marshall, himself a disciple of the pianist Enrique Granados, and theorist Ricardo Lamote de Grignon.

De Larrocha was invited to play at Barcelona's Palau de la Musica when only 6, and by age 11 she was already a soloist with the Madrid Symphony Orchestra.

AP

Pianist Alicia De Larrocha is shown in this March 26, 1978 file photo taken at Alice Tully hall in New York, N.Y.

By the time she was 20, she was playing to full houses around Spain, displaying a style and skill that transcended her age. In 1947 she began to make an impression on the European circuit, and was soon playing all the major musical centers.

De Larrocha's style combined poetic interpretation, gracefulness and subtlety with technical virtuosity and remarkable focus, which enabled her to produce a beautifully layered sound capable of grand, temperamental flourishes.

She made her first trip to the United States in 1955, invited by Alfred Wallestein, and toured with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. It was this tour that allowed her to break through to gain recognition as one of the world's most outstanding pianists.

'City of Life and Death' wins Spanish film award

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP)—Chinese director Lu Chuan's film "City of Life and Death" has won the top prize at Spain's San Sebastian Film Festival.

The movie, a sensitive and balanced depiction of a traumatic moment in China's history known as the Nanking Massacre, or the Rape of Nanking, deals with a six-week period in 1937-38 following the Japanese capture of the Chinese city of Nanking.

The metropolis was the capital of the Republic of China, and hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed and tens of thousands of women raped by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army.

"Shot in wide lens black-and-white, the film alternates Japanese and Chinese points of view to brush a compelling and impressionist portrait of the day-to-day living conditions in the devastated city," the jury said, praising Lu's focus on "the minute ethical dilemmas demanded by surviving in wartime."

The best actress award went to Lola Duenas for her performance in Spanish film "Yo Tambien," while the best actor prize went to Pablo Pineda for the same film.

Pineda was the first Spanish person with Down's syndrome to obtain a university degree, and he has now gained the festival's top acting award for his role as Daniel, a man who sees in Laura—Lola Duenas—the kind of woman he has always longed for.

AP

El director chino Lu Chuan, en las escaleras de un hotel después de ganar la Concha de Oro a la mejor película por "City of Live and Death" en el 57mo Festival de Cine de San Sebastián, España, el sábado 26 de septiembre del 2009.

Duenas has previously attracted critical acclaim in Pedro Almodovar's "Volver" and "The Sea Inside," where she played opposite Javier Bardem's character Ramon Sampedro, a quadriplegic.

Javier Rebollo won the best director prize for "La Mujer Sin Piano," a Spain-France collaboration, while the jury's prize for best cinematography went to Cao Yu for "City of Life and Death."

Rebollo's movie deals humorously with a 24-hour period in a woman's life and features actress Carmen Machi in her first lead role beside Czech actor Jan Budar.

The festival's special prize went to "Le Refuge" by Francois Ozon of France. The film begins in a chic Paris apartment, where Mousse—IsabelleCarre—and Louis—Melvil Poupaud—two beautiful people, have fallen into a chaotic lifestyle. They are very much in love but also clearly doomed.

Best screenplay award went to Andrew Bovell, Melissa Reeves, Patricia Corneluus and Christos Tsiolkas for the Australian film "Blessed."

This movie follows the complex lives and misadventures of seven youths who wander the Melbourne streets at night as their mothers await their return home.

The awards were announced Saturday by festival jury president, film director Laurent Cantet.

In Celebration of His New Life

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong

Affectionately known as "**Grandpa**"

Born on July 25, 1924
Was called to his eternal rest by our Dear Lord on Thursday, September 24, 2009.

IN HIS NEW LIFE, HE NOW JOINS HIS:
WIFE: Ramona Seman Chong
SONS: Vincent Raymond S. Chong and Raymond Snodgrass
DAUGHTER: Dorothy Kawai-Chock
PARENTS: Maria Lujan Chong Lizama & Jose Chong
STEPFATHER: Jose Lizama

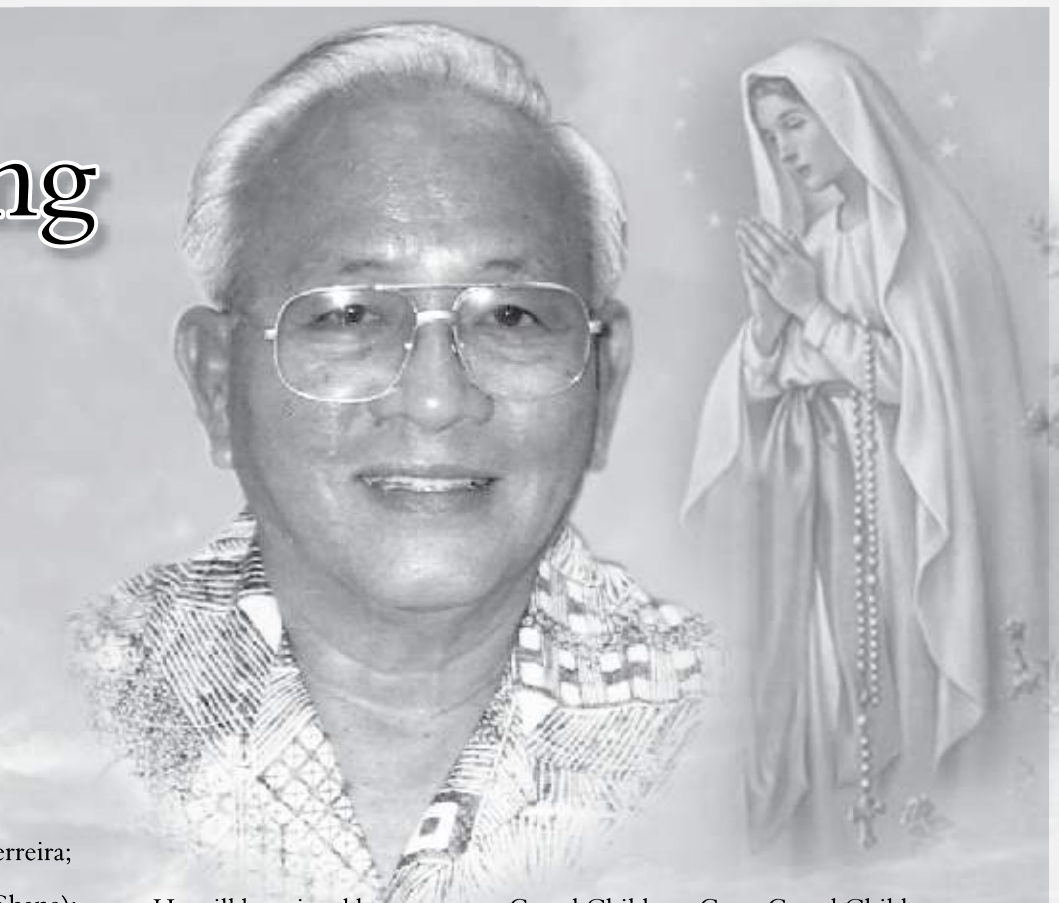
SISTERS/BROTHERS & SPOUSES:
Ernestina (Edna) Chong & Lorenzo Ayuyu
Luis L. Chong
Francisco L. Chong
Jesus L. & Josepha S. Chong
Joaquin L. Chong

HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

SONS/DAUGHTERS & FAMILIES:
Alex S. Chong: Tania, Melbeina, Valerie, Alexander, and Dana
Dinah S. Chong: Vera F. Guerrera (Jason — Derek, Kiana and Kaylie); Clint Ferreira; and Brent Babauta
Doris S. Chong: Claudine C. Babauta (Irvin Russell — Shannah, Sherina, and Shane); Monte Pladevega, Jr.; Annette Pladevega; and Jillian Pladevega
Dominic S. Chong: Jeannie C. Sablan (Delbert — Taylor, June, and Gunner); Audrey C. Pangelinan (Thomas — Monique, Tomas); Hazel C. Camacho (Alfred — Kyle, Gabriel†, and Pasencia); Ruby; Joseph and Nathaniel
Vivian C. & Dion Neth: (Yvonne — Kira and Ava); Jason; and Dion, Jr. (Marian)
Donovan Jose (DJ) Chong
Special Sons: David T. Camacho and Rudy T. Camacho

SISTERS/BROTHER & SPOUSES:
Tomasa C. & Luis T. Camacho
Emilia C. & Miguel Sablan
Manuel L. & Esperanza Chong

Caregivers: Beatriz Flores and Pilar Angeles



He will be missed by numerous Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Nieces, Nephews, God Children, Relatives and Friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. Rosary is being prayed daily at 7:30 p.m. at the Kristo Rai Church.

On Friday, October 2, his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. The Responso & Holy Rosary, Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by burial at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated.

From the Family

Daughtry, McGraw headline show for Agassi school

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Comedian Dane Cook, rock band Daughtry, and musicians Tim McGraw and Brian McKnight were headlining a benefit concert Saturday night at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino to provide funding for the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy.

Agassi said this year's first class of high school graduates from the public charter school he backs gives those who support the academy a reason to celebrate and justify their mission.

"We've lived in really fat times over a lot of these years, and these times are definitely different, but with that being said it's still a great opportunity to raise a lot of resources and also celebrate," the tennis star told The Associated Press.

Agassi, who is hosting the concert, said the school is an example of what education could be in Nevada and elsewhere if schools get proper funding and full support from parents.

"It's not a mystery—we haven't cured cancer over here. We're plugging away at implementing the best practices that work," the eight-time Grand Slam champion said.

That includes longer school days, mandated parent participation and volunteering, and teaching flexibility, Agassi said.

The K-12 school with about 600 students graduated its first seniors this year, and all of them moved on to higher education.

The school opened in 2001 with funding from the Andre Agassi Foundation, which has raised $75 million through the concerts since 1994 and has used other fundraisers to support the school for low-income students.

Students who apply for the school are chosen through a lottery system. Their parents do not pay tuition.

When the school started, the concert proceeds made up 95 percent of the school's budget, but today they represent less than half of overall fundraising for the school, Agassi said. Tickets for the show cost at least $3,500 per pair.

"It's been hugely important over the years," he said.

Agassi urged Nevada lawmakers in April to make education changes in a state that ranks near the bottom in national per-pupil spending and graduation rates.

He was honored last month at the U.S. Open in New York for his charitable contributions, along with Doug Flutie, Mia Hamm and David Robinson.

After blowing kisses to the crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium—where Agassi played his last professional match in 2006—Agassi promptly talked education policy with the crowd.

"It just felt so appropriate and right to share this stage and time in my life with those that not only watched me grow up but those that helped me grow up," Agassi said.

AP

Dane Cook arrives at the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation for Education's Grand Slam for Children benefit concert at Wynn Las Vegas hotel and casino, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 in Las Vegas.

Scholars study Springsteen during weekend event

WEST LONG BRANCH, N.J. (AP)—Hold still, Bruce - this won't hurt a bit!

Scholars from around the world are dissecting the Springsteen legend this weekend in New Jersey.

"Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium" continues through Sunday at Monmouth University. The no-holds-barred intellectual romp, coinciding with Springsteen's 60th birthday, was organized by Virginia Tech and Penn State Altoona.

And yes, the scholars do get the comedic irony of studying a man who "learned more from a three-minute record than he ever learned from school."

The festivities include several pilgrimages to the landmark Stone Pony nightclub, down the road in Asbury Park, N.J.

Educators spent Friday night singing, hollering and chanting a curse phrase at the impish urging of rock pioneer Gary U.S. Bonds, whose performance brought the house down. Springsteen resurrected Bonds' career in the '80s by writing his comeback hit, "This Little Girl."

Professors, many of them veterans of dozens of concerts - one boasted 150-plus - vied to get out their first-person tales from the concert "pit."

Fans of Run of the (Steel) Mill, Springsteen's former band, also entered the symposium fray.

AP

In this July 2, 2009 file photo, Bruce Springsteen performs during the first German concert of his "Working On A Dream" European tour in the Olympic stadium in Munich, Germany.

Springsteen has "saved my life many times," said textbook publisher Patty Pappas of Toronto, who detoured to the symposium en route to next week's Meadowlands concerts. "If you're sad, happy, angry - if you want to scream, rant and rave - there's always a song that can express it."

Come the light of day, though, it's back to the books - make that the Power Point presentations.

"Fun?" said presenter Francesco Cassino of Rome, Italy, clearly startled by the question during his reverie on harmonic sequences. His expression grew otherworldly. "It's my life," he said Saturday, expressing the common theme of fans everywhere.

"His music can call us to a higher purpose," said Dr. James Kelly of Carlow University in Pittsburgh, calling Springsteen a vehicle for discussions on social causes, war, race, gender and class.

When the music that was to accompany Kelly's presentation didn't play, the audience told him to stop talking and fix it. From then on, Kelly - who referred to Springsteen as a "cool rockin' daddy" - jackhammered through his academic talk while competing with the music - blasts of "Sprung from cages on Highway 9!" and "Baby, this town rips the bones from your back!"

Discussion topics were dizzying. Springsteen and psychology; the movies; spirituality; American culture; history; the criminal justice system; the online community; family.

Bruce Geeks worship Springsteen as a storyteller and a poet. References abounded to the likes of writers Jack Kerouac and Flannery O'Connor; Springsteen has said O'Connor's work helped inspire the "Nebraska" album.

There were down-home moments, as well.

Fellow blue-collar rocker Joe Grushecky sheepishly admitted taking a sick day from his regular job as a special education teacher to collaborate with Springsteen. His peeved employer set out to track him down.

Grushecky's mother called her son to pass along his boss' message. Patti Scialfa, Springsteen's wife, took the call.

"Patti hands me the phone and says, `It's your mom,'" recalled Grushecky, who shushed Springsteen while calling back his other boss, and feigning illness.

When Grusheky's kids were little, they thought Springsteen was just "another of Daddy's buddies who played guitar. And lived in a bigger house."

The "Springsteen and Social Consciousness" panel stressed that the boss puts his money - and his energies - where his mouth is. Singer-activist Jen Chapin, daughter of the late Harry Chapin, said Springsteen has raised millions of dollars for grass root causes including hunger.

"I've dealt with a lot of celebrities," said Chapin, giving Springsteen an A-plus for his "integrity" and determination to "follow through on his promises."

The symposium, also held in 2005, is the brainchild of 52-show veteran Dr. Mark Bernhard, director of continuing and professional education at Virginia Tech.

Glenn Beck gets ceremonial key to hometown city

MOUNT VERNON, Wash. (AP)—As planned, the mayor of Glenn Beck's hometown in Washington state presented the Fox News personality with a ceremonial key to the city Saturday evening, an event preceded by weeks of protests and petitions calling for the cancellation of the visit.

Beck received a boisterous, minute-long standing ovation after receiving the plaque-mounted key from Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris, who had proclaimed Saturday "Glenn Beck Day" as a way to mark the conservative commentator's success as a nationally known broadcaster.

Beck spoke for about an hour, remembering his childhood in Mount Vernon, an agricultural city of 31,000 people 60 miles north of Seattle that he described as magical and connected to the values of small-town America. He cried as he reminisced about going to a local theater with his mother.

"Now, I would give my right arm to live in a town like Mount Vernon. And I discovered today that there are a ton of people ready to cut it off," he said, jokingly referring to protesters gathered nearby. "It doesn't bother me, because I have the key to their house now."

AP

In this March 12, 2003 file photo, conservative radio and television personality Glenn Beck is shown doing his radio show in Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

Demonstrators outside the city's McIntyre Hall numbered close to 800—the largest protest anybody could remember in Mt. Vernon's history, Fire Department spokeswoman Erica Work said. The demonstrators appeared evenly split between those who supported Beck and those who opposed his visit.

Police arrested one man who they said ignored repeated warnings to get off the street. The man was arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct and booked into the Skagit County Jail, authorities said.

Beck, a vocal critic of President Barack Obama, has garnered a strong national following, taking aim at such standard conservative targets as illegal immigration and big government spending.

The event had been criticized by some who claim Beck is too polarizing a figure. The City Council passed a resolution saying "Mount Vernon City Council is in no way sponsoring the mayor's event on Sept. 26, 2009, and is not connected to the Glenn Beck event in any manner."

Keillor hosts 1st 'Prairie Home' since stroke

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Humorist Garrison Keillor hosted his first broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion" since suffering a minor stroke nearly three weeks ago.

Keillor launched a new season of his popular public radio show Saturday night with a live broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul.

The 67-year-old Keillor suffered a mild stroke on Labor Day and spent four nights at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. He soon returned to work and said he had no plans to postpone the upcoming season of "Prairie Home."

The season premiere was followed by an annual meatloaf supper and free street dance featuring Keillor with singer Andra Suchy (SOO'-kee), Salsa del Soul, the Sam Bush Band and the Guy's All-Star Shoe Band.

Conan O'Brien OK after hitting head in show stunt

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien was expected to be back on the job Monday after hitting his head during a "Tonight Show" stunt.

"Conan is resting comfortably at home. He is expected to return to work on Monday," NBC said in a statement Saturday.

The accident Friday halted production of "Tonight," NBC said. The network did not say what the stunt entailed.

O'Brien was examined at a hospital Friday and was released, although the network didn't say when.

A "Tonight" rerun with guest Jeremy Piven aired Friday. According to NBC's Web site, the scheduled show was supposed to include actress Teri Hatcher and Seth McFarlane ("Family Guy," "The Cleveland Show"). Actress Drew Barrymore and jockey Joe Talamo were the scheduled guests for Monday.

O'Brien, 46, issued a statement through NBC that indicated he was treating the incident lightly.

"Last thing I remember I was enjoying the play with Mrs. Lincoln, and the next thing I knew I was in bed being served cookies and juice" O'Brien said in the statement.

The accident brought back memories of a rare absence by his predecessor. O'Brien took over the "Tonight" host's job from Jay Leno in June.

Leno's absence came toward the end of his 17 years with the show, when a high fever and unspecified illness caused him to check himself into a hospital for a day. NBC canceled two episodes of "Tonight" when that occurred in May.

NBC's decision to remove the top-rated Leno from "Tonight" and replace him with O'Brien, hoping to draw a younger audience, put pressure on the new host's shoulders.

AP

In a photo provided by NBC Conan O'Brien makes his debut as the host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" in this June 1, 2009 file photo in Universal City, Ca.

Tupac's mother donates his writing for research

ATLANTA (AP)—Tupac Shakur's mother has donated a collection of the rapper's writing to the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center.

Afeni Shakur has handed over more than 150 of her son's items, ranging from rough drafts of lyrics and poems to a photocopy of his contract with Suge Knight and Death Row Records.

The rapper's collection will be part of the archives at the library on the campus of the Atlanta University Center, which comprises the historically black universities of Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

The library also houses The Martin Luther King Jr. Collection. Shakur's records are expected to be available for research in the fall of 2010.

"We need to read history from the source," Afeni Shakur said. "It gives people the opportunity to judge him objectively. What we want to do is educate."

Other items include the rapper's handwritten playlists of "All Eyez on Me" and "The Don Killuminati: The 7 Day Theory"; letters he wrote to his family when he in prison in 1994; and some of his personal items returned to the family after his death.

Afeni Shakur says she has never read any of her son's notes.

"I haven't touched them one bit," she said. "I have not been able to. But I think when the library makes them available, I think I can go with my family and might able to do it for the first time."

Shakur was one of rap's best-selling artists, becoming an even bigger star after his release from prison in 1995 with his multi-platinum selling album "All Eyez on Me." He was shot to death while riding in a car with Knight in Las Vegas a year later.

Actress Tawny Kitaen arrested in Calif. for DUI

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police in California say former actress Tawny Kitaen has been arrested for investigation of driving under the influence.

Newport Beach police Sgt. Shontel Sherwood says Kitaen was arrested at about 3 p.m. Saturday when officers suspected she had been driving her Range Rover under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Kitaen was still in custody early Saturday evening.

William Briggs, an attorney who has previously represented Kitaen, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The 48-year-old Kitaen recently appeared on the VH1 reality show "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew."

She first found fame appearing in 1980s music videos for future husband David Coverdale's band Whitesnake. She also played the bride-to-be of Tom Hanks' character in the 1984 film "Bachelor Party."

Seth Rogen gets dream role: 'Simpsons' writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seth Rogen has fulfilled a dream, and he's not talking about starring in the box-office hit "Knocked Up" or playing a superhero in the upcoming "The Green Hornet."

Rogen co-wrote an episode of "The Simpsons" and lends his voice to a character in the episode that airs 8 p.m. EDT Sunday, kicking off the Fox show's 21st season. He's only the second visiting celebrity to both write and act, following in the 2006 footsteps of Ricky Gervais.

"As a writer, it always just seemed like the Holy Grail," Rogen said of the animated series. "I can die a happy man now."

The episode, by Rogen and writing partner Evan Goldberg in collaboration with the show's writers, plays off the actor's pre-filming fitness regimen for "Green Hornet." The movie is in production and set for release in 2010.

In "Homer the Whopper," Rogen plays a trainer assigned to get Homer Simpson in superhero shape to play Everyman, a hero created by Comic Book Guy and played by the rotund couch potato.

AP

In this TV publicity image released by Fox, character Homer Simpson, dressed as a comic book character Everyman, left, is shown with celebrity fitness trainer "Lyle McCarthy, voiced by Seth Rogen on the animated series, "The Simpsons."

"We wanted to comment on how Hollywood generally ruins these movies. The whole joke is Homer is cast to play a guy who's an everyman and they try to make him into this physically fit guy," Rogen said.

Recording with the cast was "one of the highlights of my life," said the seriously devoted "Simpsons" fan (favorite episodes include "Itchy & Scratchy Land" and the one in which Bart sells his soul to Milhouse).

CW's 'Beautiful Life' axed after just 2 airings

AP

Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore arrive at a party for the book 'Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide' in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009.

NEW YORK (AP)—The CW network's "The Beautiful Life: TBL" has become the first television series from the new fall crop to be canceled.

The network says it's being pulled after only two episodes aired.

The drama starred Mischa Barton and Sara Paxton and was executive produced by Ashton Kutcher. It was set in the glamorous modeling world of New York City.

It premiered Sept. 16 to just 1.5 million viewers. The audience dropped for this week's episode.

In its place on Wednesdays at 9 p.m. Eastern the CW will repeat episodes of its promising new "Melrose Place" revival, one day after their original airing.

Anxiety-ridden student seeks help learning how to relax

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am sick of being afraid of everything in my life. I'm a 21-year-old college student who wakes up every morning wondering what will go wrong today or what I am going to screw up this time. I don't know how to get beyond the little misfortunes that occur on a daily basis, and I take every form of criticism to heart, even if it's a joke.

I get nervous before and during every activity I take part in. I also get nervous talking to close friends and relatives and have a hard time articulating what I mean to say because I'm afraid everyone is judging me.

Please tell me how to relax for once; I honestly do not know how. My stress level is over the top, and it exhausts me beyond belief. I know I have a problem, and counseling is not an option.

MESSED UP IN OHIO

DEAR MESSED UP: Excuse me? Counseling is not only an "option," in your case it is important you seek it out. You are fortunate to be in college, because your next stop should be the student health center. Anxiety can feed on itself, and sometimes it takes medical and psychological intervention to quiet the adrenaline rush that's causing it. Once that's done, you can then address the cause of your depression and low self-esteem and start feeling better about yourself. Please don't wait.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 years old and during this past year I have been exposed to more drugs than I ever thought possible. I have tried many of them—from prescription drugs, marijuana and cocaine to ecstasy.

I know my decisions were reckless. Abby, I'm writing this in the hope of reaching out to anyone who will listen. I was blessed that I didn't become addicted, and even luckier that I'm still alive.

There are those who are not as fortunate as I am. I have heard more stories about drug abuse, overdoses and drug-related deaths in my town than I can handle. I want to change this. I want to make a difference. But I need help. How can I get involved and make people in my community more aware that our town has a problem?

REACHING OUT IN LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZ.

DEAR REACHING OUT: By writing this letter, you have already taken the first step in raising awareness. Now it's up to your local police and your board of education to take some action. Everyone knows that passing laws is not enough unless they are enforced. And one of the most effective weapons in eliminating drug abuse is education.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Can you please tell me where is the proper placement of a name tag?

I own a small business and attend many networking events. Some people have told me the tag should be worn on the right side so you can see it when you shake hands. Others say it should be on the left, because people read from left to right. What is the proper etiquette?

JEFF IN STUART, FLA.

DEAR JEFF: According to Emily Post, the tags are usually worn on the right side because that's where most people look when they first greet each other with a handshake. (Using this logic, some women should paste the tag just above the middle of their chests.)

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

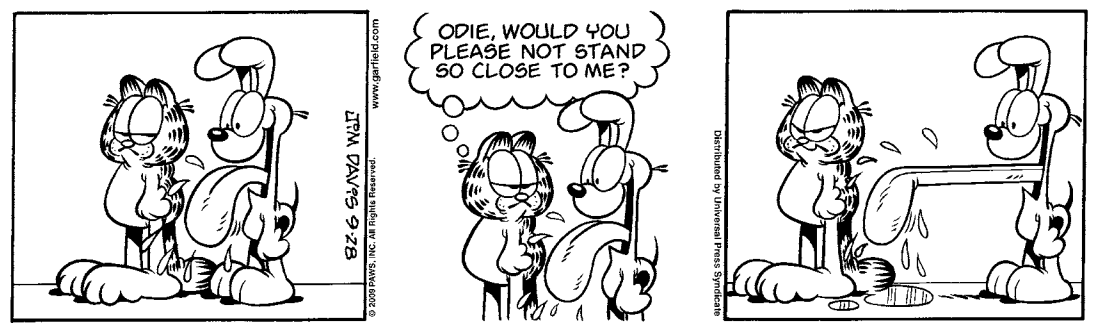
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HAVE YOU SEEN MY SHOES? I THOUGHT I HAD THEM OUT RIGHT HERE.
YOUR SHOES? I DON'T KNOW.
THEY WERE RIGHT HERE. WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?
WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.
WELL I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT MY SHOES. HELP ME LOOK.
THEY'RE NOT LEAVING US WITH A BABY SITTER TONIGHT!
WATTERSON ©1989 Universal Press Syndicate 9/28

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


JIM DAVIS 9-28
www.garfield.com
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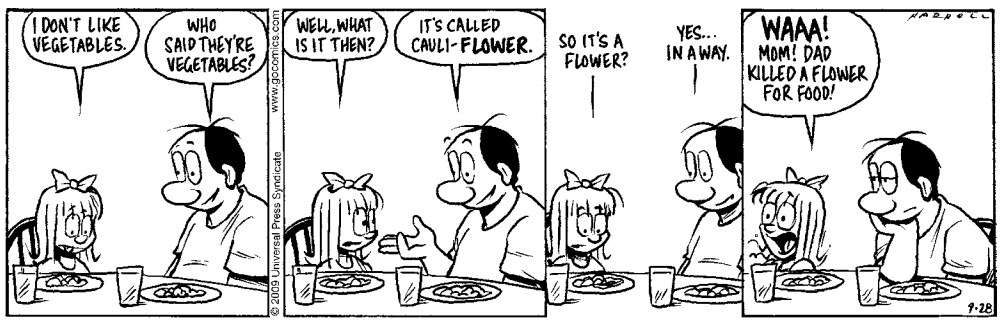
ODIE, WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT STAND SO CLOSE TO ME?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I DON'T LIKE VEGETABLES.
WHO SAID THEY'RE VEGETABLES?
WELL, WHAT IS IT THEN?
IT'S CALLED CAULI-FLOWER.
SO IT'S A FLOWER?
YES... IN A WAY.
WAAA! MOM! DAD KILLED A FLOWER FOR FOOD!
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
9-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, ENO. WHAT IS THIS? I FOUND IT UP IN THE ATTIC.
OH, THAT'S MY THIRD-GRADE ENTRY IN MY OLD GRADE SCHOOL'S HALLOWEEN POSTER CONTEST.
AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE RIBBON ON IT, I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF ARTISTIC TALENT AS A CHILD.
I'LL SAY! I DIDN'T KNOW SCHOOLS GAVE OUT 'DISHONORABLE MENTIONS'!
9-28 © Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

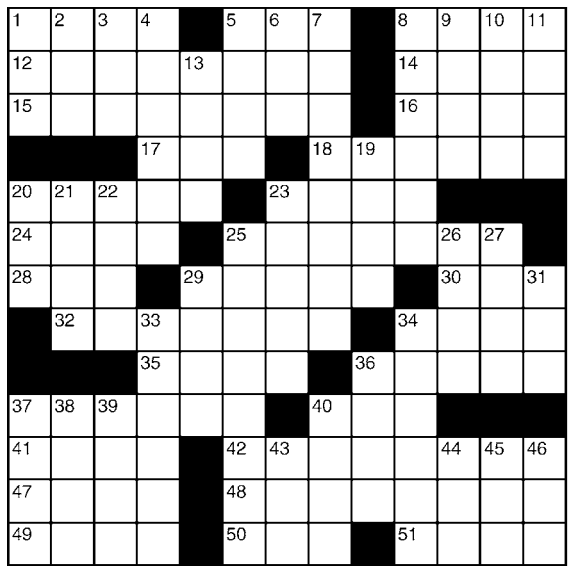
ACROSS
1 One of the Three Bears
5 Sample from a snifter
8 First victim
12 Lift
14 Hayseed
15 Christmas wreath adornment
16 Press clothes
17 Fresh
18 Rose protectors
20 Photographer Diane
23 Jailer's janglers
24 Traditional stories
25 Regard as forgivable
28 Sch. org.
29 Aspect
30 A Gershwin brother
32 Tornado
34 Paper holder
35 Hawaiian neckwear
36 Transparent
37 Ritzy cracker spread
40 Winter ailment
41 Lotion additive
42 Figaro portrayer, e.g.
47 Chess piece
48 Device measuring distance traveled
49 Formerly, formerly
50 Thanksgiving veggie
51 Old portico

DOWN
1 Energy
2 — Baba
3 Writing implement
4 Fifth or Madison
5 Pack cargo
6 Charged bit
7 Sham
8 Melodious
9 "Ironside" star
10 Black, in verse
11 Contact, e.g.
13 "Bullets," to a poker player
19 Jekyll's alter ego
20 Matterhorn, for one
21 Mil. training grp.
22 Heehaw
23 Zen paradoxes
25 Certain church singer
26 Cleopatra's river
27 A Great Lake
29 Entreaty
31 Spring mo.
33 Customer
34 Paratroopers' gear
36 Slender
37 Superhero costume part
38 Winged
39 Promises
40 Gift tag word
43 Oklahoma city
44 Mel of baseball
45 Ultramodernist
46 Historic time

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	A	M	A	■	A	C	M	E	■	E	W	E
E	R	I	N	■	L	O	O	K	■	C	H	A
W	I	N	G	■	W	O	R	E	■	H	I	S
D	A	T	E	■	A	P	T	■	D	O	Z	E
■	■	■	L	A	Y	■	A	P	E	■	■	■
C	R	A	F	T	S	■	L	E	V	E	E	S
P	I	L	A	R	■	■	D	I	E	G	O	■
A	M	E	L	I	A	■	C	A	L	L	O	W
■	■	■	L	A	B	■	A	L	T	■	■	■
T	H	U	S	■	S	A	T	■	O	P	A	L
H	E	N	■	P	E	N	N	■	P	A	R	A
A	F	T	■	A	N	T	I	■	A	G	E	S
I	T	O	■	S	T	E	P	■	Y	E	A	H

Saturday's answer 9-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Skye Bartusiak, 17; Hilary Duff, 22; Mira Sorvino, 42; Moon Unit Zappa, 42

Happy Birthday: You'll be forced to make some difficult decisions. Your ideas are good and the dreams you have put on the back burner must be brought back to life. Times are changing and the sooner you start down that path, the better things will get. Your stress level will go down and your optimism will go up. Your numbers are 5, 9, 12, 20, 27, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): The help you offer others will be repaid in a very special and unexpected way. You will have some great ideas but you may have to hone them to fit your budget. Ask approval before you make your final decision. Maintain your integrity. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't trust anyone with information that might affect your career or professional or financial goals. You have to be on your toes to outsmart and outmaneuver. Your intentions regarding someone you think is special should be revealed. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will learn something very valuable if you listen to the voice of reason and experience. Perhaps taking baby steps will be more advantageous. Don't count on getting any help from your friends or lover this time. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Your main concern has to be your status at home and in the workforce. A necessary change may make you nervous but, in the end, you will prosper. Be the silent observer and the thoughtful contributor. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let what others do or say affect your productivity. Concentrate on moving things along using interesting suggestions and a mellow persona. Don't trust hearsay or promises that sound too good to be true. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Give your all to the cause, project or person you are trying to move along. You can form an alliance with someone who will add to your skills and ideas. A change in the way you think will surprise some but not those who are already on the same page. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Nurture and pay extra attention to the things you do and the people you love. Make changes at home to accommodate everyone and you can reach your highest potential. Sharing what you have will open up opportunities you didn't know were available. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You won't be seeing things too clearly. Your intuition is off target and will cause you to make an error that could affect you or your home life negatively. Look for advice from an outsider who can view your situation objectively. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Uncertainty at home and within personal relationships will take you by surprise and must be handled with diplomacy if you don't want to suffer setbacks. You may want to divvy up what you share with someone before things get messy. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get involved in a new interest. Expand your awareness, philosophy or knowledge.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Making personal changes to your home or workspace will enable you to be more productive. Invest in your future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have trouble keeping things to yourself as well as within your limits. You will be prone to exaggeration, overindulgence and unrealistic expectations. Before you spend, rethink your strategy and plan something that is within your budget. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have too much to risk by sharing time-sensitive information. You can change your mind or redirect your efforts but don't lose sight of what everyone around you is doing. A problem with poor information or someone reneging is likely to set you back. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast and honorable. You are detailed, have interesting ideas and will make a difference. You are loyal, compassionate and reliable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	4			2		
		9	2			1		
4	2			8	9		6	3
		4					8	2
		3		5		7		
7	8					3		
1	3		8	2			7	9
		8			3	4		
		2			6	8		

Difficulty Level ★ 9/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	5	7	8	9	4	6	2
6	8	9	4	2	1	7	5	3
7	4	2	6	5	3	1	8	9
2	3	4	9	6	5	8	7	1
1	6	8	3	7	2	5	9	4
5	9	7	8	1	4	3	2	6
8	7	1	2	4	6	9	3	5
9	5	6	1	3	7	2	4	8
4	2	3	5	9	8	6	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TUMI LUGGAGE — **Solution: 7 letters**

P	C	A	R	E	S	I	N	A	E	K	A	T	A	A
I	Y	R	U	E	G	A	Y	O	V	R	R	R	R	H
E	T	T	R	W	I	L	T	O	N	O	T	P	O	P
C	Z	R	H	D	F	K	C	A	P	A	I	T	O	L
E	Y	I	I	O	T	A	C	S	M	H	O	E	M	A
S	L	R	S	P	N	I	T	U	S	C	N	K	Y	S
V	E	C	T	O	R	E	S	N	O	I	A	C	E	U
M	A	S	M	B	L	A	A	L	L	D	A	O	L	N
L	T	C	A	L	T	M	L	R	N	G	N	P	L	D
E	H	F	A	C	S	E	I	E	E	L	(T)	D	O	A
F	E	W	H	T	C	A	G	L	S	I	E	(O)	R	N
F	R	E	F	T	I	A	K	C	A	S	V	E	(T)	C
U	L	A	I	O	C	O	R	T	I	N	A	I	H	(E)
D	R	O	N	O	L	Y	N	G	N	W	O	T	R	W
C	N	S	G	A	B	D	N	A	H	A	R	P	A	C

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Agenda, Airline, Alpha, Capra, Cases, Collection, Cortina, Craftsmanship, Design, Duffel, Fabric, Fold, Gift, Handbags, Leather, Legacy, Meridian, Monaco, Nylon, Pack, Pieces, Pocket, Python, Resina, Riviera, Roomy, Sack, Satchel, Size, Sport, Sumatra, Sundance, Take, Tassel, Tote, Town, Trip, Trolley, Vacation, Vector, Voyageur, Wallet, Wheel, Wilton

Last Saturday s Answer: Shell

Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Crown jewels

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

coronet duel dual

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Find today's solution in this section

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v-. CONCEPCION M. MANGLONA, LORENZA M. MANGLONA, HERMAN M. MANGLONA, and LUIS A. SASAMOTO, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0325

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, LUIS A. SASAMOTO:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your cousel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judment by default may be taken against you for the relief of demanded in the complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 8th day of September, 2009:

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 18, 2009 **Closing date: October 23, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Executive Director
1 (one) Staff Engineer

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications:

Executive Director: Possess a four (4) year degree from an accredited U.S. University with no less than ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in either of the following field: management, engineering, financial, aviation and/or maritime industry. Must have managerial and leadership experience acceptable to the Board of Directors.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Staff Engineering: Possess a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Cardinals clinch NL Central with win over Rockies

DENVER (AP)—Jason LaRue homered off Ubaldo Jimenez to break a seventh-inning tie as the St. Louis Cardinals clinched the National League Central crown with a 6-3 win over the Colorado Rockies on Saturday.

Colorado's lead in the NL wild-card race shrunk to 2 1/2 games over Atlanta.

The Cardinals, the first major league team to win its division, are headed back to the playoffs for the first time since winning the 2006 World Series. They became the third team to secure a playoff spot, joining the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers.

Adam Wainwright (19-8) allowed three runs, two earned, and 10 hits over eight innings while also contributing a pair of two-out doubles. He walked one and struck out 11.

Ryan Ludwick pinch-hit for Wainwright in the ninth and cracked a two-run homer off Matt Daley, giving closer Ryan Franklin a three-run cushion to work with.

AP

Members of the St. Louis Cardinals, including catcher Jason LaRue, front, celebrate after the Cardinals' 6-3 victory over the Colorado Rockies in a baseball game in Denver on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, the Dodgers locked up their fourth playoff appearance in six years, getting a two-run single from pinch-hitter Jim Thome during a four-run eighth inning in which Pittsburgh relievers walked four.

Manager Joe Torre is headed to the postseason for a record-tying 14th straight time—only the Braves' Bobby Cox has accomplished the feat.

Any combination of Dodgers victories and Rockies losses totaling two will give Los Angeles its first back-to-back division titles since 1977-78.

Braves 11, Nationals 5

At Washington, Tommy Hanson pitched seven innings for his 11th win and Yunel Escobar drove in three runs as Atlanta beat Washington for its fifth consecutive victory.

The Braves remained in the wild card hunt, having won 13 of 15.

Impressive rookie Hanson (11-4) allowed four hits and four runs—three of them on Mike Morse's pinch-hit homer.

The Braves took advantage of Washington's shoddy defense to jump out to a 5-0 lead off Garrett Mock (3-10). Washington matched its total from last year with its 102nd loss.

Cubs 6, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Aramis Ramirez homered, Jake Fox hit a two-run single and Chicago earned its sixth win in seven games.

Tom Gorzelanny (7-2) won consecutive starts for the first time since August 2007, allowing one run and five hits.

Geovany Soto drove in two runs and Kosuke Fukudome added a pinch-hit RBI single for the Cubs, who beat up Barry Zito (10-13). But San Francisco struggled again to back Zito with enough runs.

Juan Uribe homered for the Giants, who are spiraling downward to seriously diminish their chances in the wild-card race.

Brewers 7, Phillies 5

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer off reliever Tyler Walker in the ninth inning to give Milwaukee a victory over Philadelphia.

It was Braun's 30th home run of the season and second career game-ending homer. The loss went to Walker (2-1), one of the pitchers the Phillies were considering as a replacement for struggling closer Brad Lidge.

With the loss, the Phillies' magic number for clinching the NL East remained at four. Ryan Howard hit his 43rd home run for Philadelphia.

Marlins 9, Mets 6

At Miami, injury replacement Cameron Maybin hit a three-run homer in Florida's seven-run fifth as the Marlins rallied to beat New York.

Maybin ran for Cody Ross in the fourth inning after Ross was hit on the left hand by a pitch from John Maine (6-6). Maybin hit his third homer an inning later to give Florida a 7-3 cushion.

Reds 10, Astros 4

At Houston, Jay Bruce and Laynce Nix homered and drove in three runs each to help Cincinnati beat Houston for its sixth consecutive win.

Juan Francisco and Corky Miller each had two RBIs for the Reds, who have won 10 of 12 and 23 of 33 overall. They beat the Astros for the ninth straight time.

Miguel Tejada was 4 for 4 with two RBIs for the Astros, who have lost 11 of 12 and dropped to 1-4 under interim manager Dave Clark.

Diamondbacks 8, Padres 5

At Phoenix, seldom-used Chad Tracy snapped an 0-for-18 slump with a pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh inning, sending Daniel Schlereth to his first major league win in Arizona's victory over San Diego.

Tracy hit an 0-2 pitch from Luke Gregerson (2-4) into the swimming pool area in right-center to conclude the scoring. It was his third career slam.

Mark Reynolds hit his 44th homer for Arizona, which had lost five of six and 15 of 20.

Juan Gutierrez hit two batters with pitches with two outs in the ninth but retired Oscar Salazar for his seventh save.

San Diego had won three straight. The Padres are 15-8 in September and 34-22 since July 28, the second-best record in the National League.

Yankees, 3 Red Sox 0

At New York, CC Sabathia outdueled Daisuke Matsuzaka as the New York Yankees closed in on the American League East division title with a victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Sabathia (19-7) allowed just one hit in seven innings and combined on a two-hitter.

The Yankees have won eight of nine against their archrival after starting the season 0-8 against Boston. They can wrap up their first division title on Sunday when they play the Red Sox for the final time this season.

Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking, opposite-field homer off the top of the left-field fence in the sixth inning, and Johnny Damon added a two-out, two-run single in the eighth off new Boston reliever Billy Wagner.

Tigers 12, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Miguel Cabrera got four hits and drove in four runs, giving him at least 100 RBIs for the sixth consecutive season, as Detroit rallied from a five-run deficit to beat Chicago.

Curtis Granderson, Placido Polanco and Gerald Laird each had three of Detroit's 20 hits, including singles in the decisive seventh inning, to help the Tigers win for the fifth time in six games.

The first-place Tigers, two games ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central, host the Twins in a four-game series beginning Monday night.

White Sox starter Freddy Garcia (2-4) faced the minimum 12 batters over the first four innings before allowing Cabrera's leadoff homer in the fifth. Cabrera singled home two more runs in the sixth.

Twins 11, Royals 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Denard Span had four hits and a career-high six RBIs to lead surging Minnesota past Kansas City for its 11th victory in 12 games.

The Twins batted around in a five-run fourth inning, highlighted by Span's bases-loaded triple. Four runs were unearned after shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt's wild throw, his fourth error in three games.

Span also had a two-run single in the fifth and an RBI single in the eighth. Matt Tolbert had three hits and scored three runs.

Joe Mauer added a two-run double in the eighth and went 2 for 4 with a walk to hike his major league-leading batting average to .371.

Athletics 15, Angels 10

At Anaheim, California, Jack Cust homered and doubled in the go-ahead run during a six-run eighth inning as Oakland rallied from a seven-run deficit to beat Los Angeles.

The Angels, whose magic number to clinch their third straight AL West title remained at four, lost their season-high fourth straight. They were the only team in the majors that hadn't lost more than three in a row this season.

The Angels lead Texas by five games with eight to play.

Kurt Suzuki and Mark Ellis also homered for the Athletics.

Rangers 15, Rays 3

At Arlington, Texas, Marlon Byrd homered twice, including his sixth career grand slam in an 11-run fifth inning as Texas beat Tampa Bay.

Texas moved within six games of Boston for the AL wild card with eight to play.

The Rangers scored all 11 runs in the fifth with two outs as 10 straight batters reached base. The outburst started with Byrd's slam off starter Matt Garza (8-11) that gave Texas a 5-3 lead. After that, the Rangers strung together four singles, three walks and two doubles.

Indians 9, Orioles 8

At Cleveland, Jhonny Peralta hit a game-ending single to give Cleveland a wild win over Baltimore, extending the Orioles' losing streak to nine games.

Luis Valbuena started the ninth with a single against Jim Johnson (4-6), Baltimore's seventh pitcher, and moved up on Choo Shin-soo's groundout. Peralta then lined a 3-1 pitch to center to win it.

The Orioles, mired in their longest skid since they dropped 10 straight Sept. 17-26, 2008, fell to 6-16 in September. Luke Scott and Michael Aubrey, both former Indians draft choices, hit two of Baltimore's three homers.

Peralta got three hits after going 1 for 31 in his previous eight games.

Andy Marte and Choo also homered for Cleveland, which finished with 15 hits.

Blue Jays 5, Mariners 4, 10 innings

At Toronto, Adam Lind homered twice, including a game-ending solo drive in the 10th inning, to power Toronto to a victory over the Mariners that included Seattle star Ichiro Suzuki's first career ejection.

Lind hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth, and won it with a leadoff drive in the 10th, his 32nd. Jose Bautista also went deep for the Blue Jays, who have 33 longballs in September, tops in the majors.

Suzuki was thrown out by plate umpire Brian Runge for arguing a called third strike in the fifth, the first ejection of the season for the Mariners and the first of the All-Star outfielder's career, including his years in Japan. Suzuki used his bat to draw a line on the outer edge of the plate, indicating he thought David Purcey's strike three pitch was outside. That led to the ejection.

Jackson mulling distractions as Lakers open season

ELSEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Phil Jackson is back from his summer vacation in Montana, already thinking about how to minimize distractions around a Los Angeles Lakers team that returns as defending NBA champions for the first time since 2002.

He'll have his hands full, with the addition of Ron Artest, the impending wedding of Lamar Odom, the departure of assistant Kurt Rambis, a crackdown on player use of Twitter, and the ever-present interest in superstar Kobe Bryant.

And oh yeah, Jackson, who turned 64 last week, is heading into the final year of his contract with no discussion of an extension.

"When I suggested that set up a situation that would be a lame duck situation, they said that they hoped the duck wasn't lame," Jackson said Friday. "We'll see how the season goes."

The Lakers reconvene Tuesday for the first time since rolling down Figueroa Street during a raucous victory parade in June celebrating their 15th NBA championship and Jackson's record 10th title.

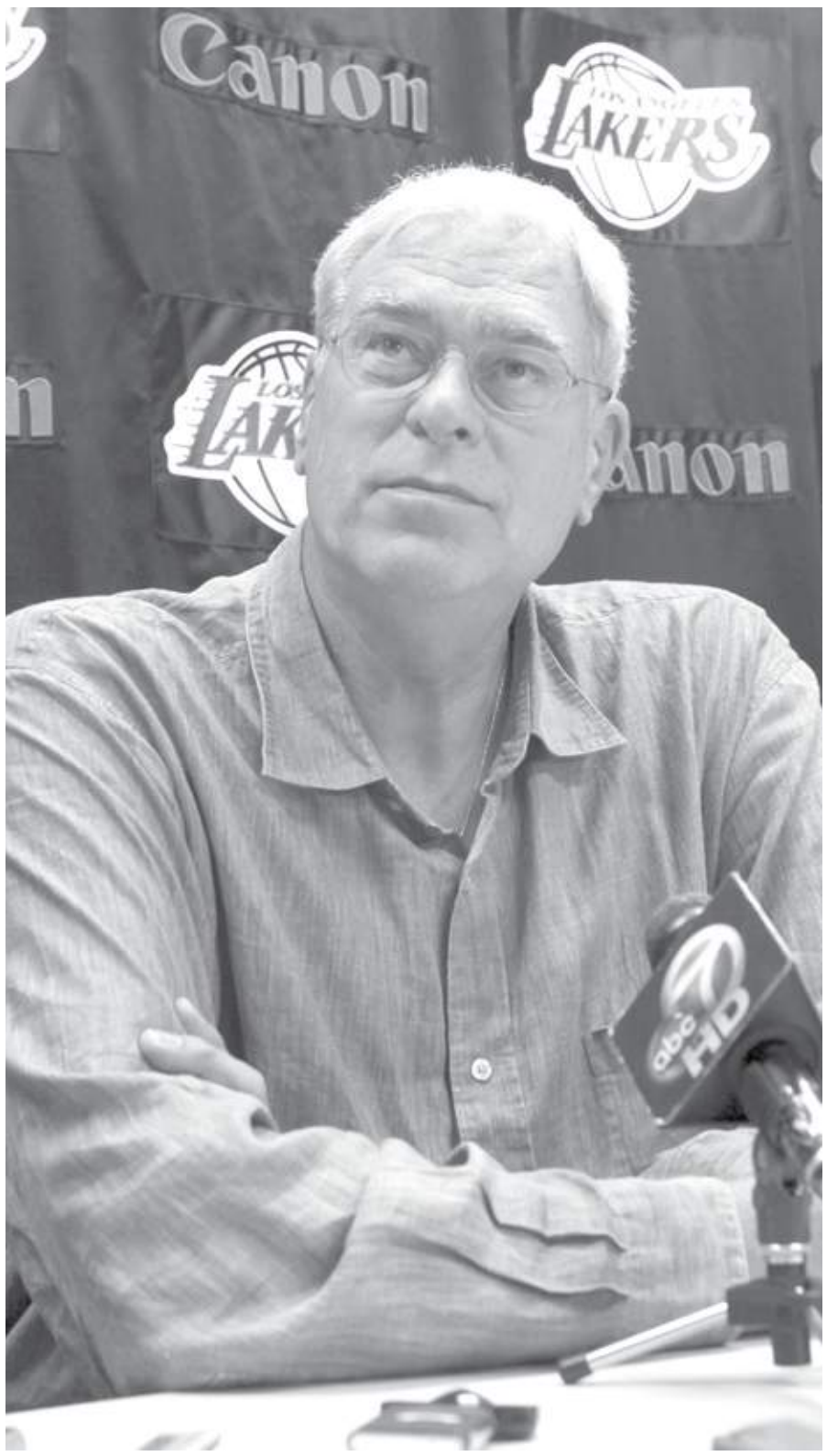
"Hopefully it'll be a camp in which nothing too exciting is done and we get through this thing," Jackson said. "You have a hell month in basketball and this is it."

Since winning the title, they added free-agent Artest, who signed a five-year deal worth about $33 million, switching places with Trevor Ariza, who left Los Angeles to take Artest's spot with the Houston Rockets.

"On paper we certainly are a better team," Jackson said, "but sometimes it's chemistry that counts between players and how they work together."

With that in mind, one of his goals is to make Artest's transition as seamless as possible.

"Ron is more of an offensive player than Trevor was," he said. "He'll be more of a focal point, but we hope that doesn't take away from the fact that he's the defensive player that we've wanted over the course of the last couple years to be a stopper, which Trevor was."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers head basketball coach Phil Jackson speaks to media at a news conference in El Segundo, Calif., Friday, Sept. 25, 2009.

Since his signing in July, Artest has been a high-profile presence on the LA party circuit and on YouTube and Twitter.

While known for giving his players plenty of leeway to operate, Jackson said, "Ron makes himself high profile in a lot of cases. We'll have to keep his activity level monitored."

Attention on Odom has shot up since the announcement of his wedding scheduled for Sunday to reality show star Khloe Kardashian.

Jackson plans to attend the event he called "a surprising thing." The couple reportedly began dating only recently after meeting at a party thrown by Artest.

"We're going to give him a real good honeymoon. If his honeymoon lasts one night, he's going to be a lot of fun after that," Jackson said, smiling.

He didn't question the timing of Odom getting hitched practically on the eve of training camp.

"Once we step on that court on Tuesday, it becomes 250 days or more of 24-7 basically," he said. "There's not a whole lot of room in your life for timeout or a break here. If you're going to get married, do it before the season starts."

On a serious note, he said he supports Odom, adding, "I want everything in his world to go right for him."

But come Tuesday, Jackson plans to discuss with his team how to minimize the distractions and chaos that routinely follows the Lakers through the season.

"There's a certain amount of privacy that we have to demand from them about what our business is that doesn't become street business," he said.

And that involves Twitter.

"Without a doubt, there will be restrictions," Jackson said without specifying what those would be.

Jackson has resisted the attempts of girlfriend and Lakers executive Jeanie Buss to get him on Twitter. Buss is an avid tweeter.

"It is a little bit of a contested situation between the two of us as to its value and how much value it has in our lives," he said. "That's still up for grabs."

Jackson said he won't replace longtime assistant Rambis, who took over the head coaching job in Minnesota. Instead, Jackson will spend more time working with the Lakers' big men, while his three remaining assistants will divvy up defensive responsibilities.

If Jackson has to miss any games because of health issues, like last season, his replacement will be the assistant responsible for monitoring that night's particular opponent.

The Lakers are mulling starting a big lineup of Bryant, Artest, Pau Gasol, Andrew Bynum and Odom, who regularly came off the bench last season.

Bynum returned from a torn MCL in his right knee just as the regular season was ending, giving the 7-footer barely any time to prepare for the championship run.

"He's talking about wearing two (knee) braces this year, making sure that nothing untoward happens during the course of the year," Jackson said. "He's talking about hopefully making the All-Star team and that's a good goal."

Earlier this week, Jackson and his pared down staff watched the Lakers' clinching Game 5 of the NBA finals, a 99-86 win over the Orlando Magic.

"It kind of ends last year and begins this year," he said. "We see that we organized the floor well, but we didn't run the floor well. We have a lot of distance to cover."

Perry races past Woods in Tour Championship

ATLANTA (AP)—Kenny Perry already has had a week to remember at the Tour Championship.

He was honored with the Payne Stewart Award, which he called the greatest accomplishment of his career. He was so overcome by the stifling heat in the opening round at East Lake that he thought he might throw up after five holes and was lucky to shoot a 72.

How about this to top it off?

A two-shot lead going into Sunday, a final pairing with Tiger Woods, his entire family in town, and a chance to capture the Tour Championship, and maybe even the $10 million bonus for winning the FedEx Cup.

"It might be magical," Perry said Saturday. "We'll see."

His round Saturday was magical enough. Perry birdied the opening four holes—all on putts inside 8 feet—to quickly catch up to Woods, then kept bogeys off his card the rest of the way for a 6-under 64.

"Four birdies in a row puts you in a good mood is all I can say," said Perry, who was at 8-under 202. "That set the tone for the day."

Woods had a 12-foot birdie putt on the first hole that slid by the cup, and that set the tone for his day. He missed a half-dozen chances from 15 feet or under, yet his only significant birdies came on putts of 20 and 55 feet. The other was a two-putt on a par 5. He wound up with a 69, his eighth consecutive round in the 60s during the FedEx Cup playoffs, yet this one cost him the lead.

"I got fooled a few times there," Woods said, confused by the slope and grain on the greens.

Perry has 14 career victories, yet only two of them has come with Woods in the field. Even with a two-shot lead, he is approaching Sunday as though he has nothing to lose. He even playfully challenged the world's No. 1 player.

"Here I am at 49, I'm still trying to beat him," Perry said. "I have fun with it. He'd better bring his 'A' game is all I've got to say."

For Perry to win the FedEx Cup, he would need a victory Sunday and for Woods to finish in a three-way tie for third or worse. That remains a possibility, given the players stacked up behind them.

Phil Mickelson continued to ooze confidence with his putter and shot a 4-under 66, suddenly believing he can make any putt whether it's from 4 feet or 40 feet. He was at 4-under 206 along with Sean O'Hair (70), who was tied with Woods until pulling a tee shot into the water on the 17th to make double bogey.

Padraig Harrington, playing with Woods for the ninth time this year, stopping making birdies to offset his mistakes and shot a 71, leaving him at 207 with Steve Marino (67).

Steve Stricker, the No. 2 seed in the FedEx Cup standings behind Woods, got back into the picture, no matter how blurry, with a 66 and was six shots out of the lead.

"I needed to make a move today to have any sort of chance for tomorrow," Stricker said. "At least I gave myself an opportunity. I'm going to need another one of those rounds, or maybe even lower."

All of them would like the kind of day Perry enjoyed.

His start was flawless in the morning, under cloudy skies and the threat of rain that forced officials to move up the tee times. After pounding a driver, he hit sand wedge to 4 feet. Then came perhaps his best shot of the round, a 5-iron with that familiar draw that settled just outside 6 feet of the cup. Perry made birdie on the next two holes from short range, and quickly found himself tied for the lead.

It was Woods' turn to catch up, but he never did.

He missed three birdie putts inside 12 feet on the front nine, and cost himself two other chances from the bunker—a fairway bunker on No. 7 that led to bogey, and a greenside bunker on the par-5 ninth that led to par.

"It was amazing how I had about four or five putts today that the grain was going up the hill, and I didn't know which one to play. Do I play the grain or do I play the slope?" Woods said. "Just one of those days where I happened to be in some interesting little spots, even thought I had pretty makeable putts."

Perry didn't have that problem, and even the one time he was threatened with a bogey, he holed his par putt from about 10 feet.

Now, he is one more good round away from one the biggest wins of his career that couldn't come at a better time. His mother is dying of cancer—Perry nearly missed the British Open when she took a turn for the worse—and his father's health is fading. That's one reason Perry put his son, Justin, on the bag over the last month.

His daughter took a break from SMU to join him this week, and his older daughter and son-in-law are coming for the final round.

"I'll have the whole gang here," Perry said. "I hope mom and dad will be watching. Hopefully, I can lift her spirits."

All Woods is trying to do is lift the trophy, although he would like both trophies—the Tour Championship and FedEx Cup—that have been stationed on the first tee all week.

There's a chance Perry can hoist one (Tour Championship) and Woods the other.

"I'd much rather just win the tournament, and the FedEx Cup will take care of itself," Woods said. "As of right now, I'm two back and have an opportunity to win the tournament. And that's what I'm going to focus on tomorrow."

PSS teaches ARFF neat lesson

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

McGraw Hill-sponsored Public School System taught Airport Rescue and Firefighting a neat lesson, 96-53, last Friday night in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Its 43-point win stood as the most lopsided so far this season.

PSS established its biggest lead of 47 points in the game, an 88-47 count with 2:30 left in the fourth quarter.

Jose Tumaquip scored half of PSS's 24 points in the first half as the team limited ARFF to only eight on the way to its fifth win against four losses.

Tumaquip was scoreless in the second quarter but added seven in a tie for first place after four rounds with their identical total scores of 296, but the former prevailed on the third playoff hole to claim the gold medal. Samoa's Leleaga Meredith notched the bronze with her four-round total of 299.

In the men's team event, the quartet of James Herman, Karati, Daniel Webb, and Tuaiti tallied 849 to win the gold medal against Samoa (853) and Fiji (866).

In the women's team event, Viking teamed up with Alice Pilkinton, Maara Kenning, and Tuaine Marsters to beat Samoa and Tahiti. The Cook Islands' women's team had a total score of 928 against Samoa's 940 and Tahiti's 953.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
McGraw Hill-PSS' Patrick Guerrero is clobbered at the right corner by three ARFF defenders during the first quarter in their game last Friday night in the IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

the third then did not see action in the fourth for a game high 19 points.

Team captain Peter Mendiola added 15, Peter Aughenbaugh had 14, and James Villacrusis joined the fray with 12. Three players also contributed eight apiece for PSS, namely Walter Mendez, Maverick Itibus and Patrick Guerrero.

Coach Jerry Diaz said they have a chance to figure in the finals this year, but the five veterans in the lineup—Mendiola, Tumaquip, Mendez, Manibusan, and Gyles Ruluked—must step up especially against teams like IT&E and NTT Docomo.

He said these guys used to play with or against some of the CNMI's big names like the late Rick Alegre, Edsel Mendoza, Ed Diaz, and Ponce Mesa.

"Peter has to step up in every game. He's a humble guy and that's positive but he needs to be a star of this league. He has the moves and the talent. He needs to boost the morale of the new players on the team," he said.

Diaz said the players need to learn how to close the game strong to be able to achieve their target because that's what they lack at this point in time.

"Our chance is still in the middle and we are hoping to improve along the way," he said.

Ace Uchel led ARFF with 12 points, all of them in the fourth quarter. Jerome Reyes and team captain Bill Camacho had eight points each.

In the second game, Tinian defeated Bank of Guam, 101-94, in a highly charged encounter.

Cris Fernandez led the win with 24 points and Tinian moved up to solo third place with a 4-1 win-loss mark. Ringo Reyes added 18.

Pete Iguel scattered a night-high of 30 points, while Jawn Joyner barreled in 21 but BOG fell to a 3-5 record and in solo eighth.

First Game

McGraw Hill-PSS 96 – Tumaquip 19, Mendiola 15, Aughenbaugh 14, Villacrusis 12, Mendez 8, Itibus 8, Guerrero 8, Ruluked 4, Ada 4, Manibusan 2, Villagomez 2.

CPA ARFF 53 – Uchel 12, JE. Reyes 8, Camacho 8, Deleon Guerrero 6, Robert 6, Sablan 6, Cepeda 4, Jul. Reyes 3.

Second Game

Tinian 101 – Fernandez 24, Reyes 18, Pascua 17, T. Borja 14, Santos 10, J. Borja 8, Evangelista 6, Cepeda 2, I. Aquininoc 2.

BoG 94 – Iguel 30, Joyner 21, Pelisamen 14, Peter 9, G. Palacios 7, D. Palacios 7, Taisacan 4, Mendiola 2.

WABOL

From Page 28

a 6-under par 66 in the opening day, dropped to seventh place.

Fourteen-year-old Viking took the gold in the women's gold via a playoff win over New Caledonia's Charlotte Navarro. Viking and Navarro ended up

Fiji takes over medal standings

Fiji took over the lead in the overall medal standings after Saturday's competitions.

Fiji grabbed gold medals in the women's and men's 400m hurdles, women's and men's 4x100m relays, and women's and men's 4x400m relays to bring their gold medal total to 21. Fiji also has 12 silver and 12 bronze for a 45 medal haul.

The current medal tally leader also took the gold medal in the netball after beating Papua New Guinea in the finals.

Fiji gained two more gold medals on Saturday when the men's team topped Tahiti and the women's team downed Vanuatu in the table tennis teams finals.

In second place is Tahiti with its 15 gold medals, 13 silver, and 11 bronze, followed by New Caledonia, which has a 12-12-10 gold-silver-bronze medal tally. Host Cook Islands is in fourth place with seven gold, six silver, and seven bronze. Completing the Top 5 is Tonga, which has earned four gold, six silver, and three bronze.

THREE

From Page 28

have one female player on the court at all times. In O-No's case, it will not be surprising to see the team field more than one female player on the court as women outnumbered the men on its roster. Other members of O-No are Laurie Peterka, Jenny Backhaus, Megan Statkus, Trent Schibe, and Cassie Halberson.

In the third game, Chenutt Crew claimed the first two sets of its debut match against Git It, 21-12, 21-12, to secure the win. Git It prevented a Chenutt Crew sweep after taking the third set, 15-12.

Brandon Chargualaf is Git It's captain and he has three female players helping him out in all three sets against Chenutt Crew. Most of Chargualaf's teammates are new to sand court and struggled in the first two sets before winning the third set.

Games in the fall league are played in three sets. The team to claim two sets wins the game. A third set is played to decide tiebreakers at the end of the regular season.

Six other teams will debut in the fall league tomorrow.

Fisingan will take on Just Do it in the first game at 5:30pm, while Random Radical will duel Scott's Team in the second game at 6:30pm. In the last game, Angamwas will face Special Delivery at 7:30pm.

The fall league has a round robin format in the regular season, while the playoff round is a single-elimination affair. Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs. Playoff games are set for Dec. 10.

NMIFA

From Page 28

competition for boys and girls. The boys' U13 has six teams with only MP United having two teams entered in the said division. In the girls' U13, Paire, MP United, IFC, and Matansa have one team apiece.

Eighteen games were played in the opening day on Saturday at the various school fields.

In the U6 divisions, games scheduled were Paire Red vs. Paired Black at the San Vicente Elementary School Field; MPU Silver vs. MPU White at the Navy Hill Field; Matansa Gold vs. Matansa Green at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Field; and IFC vs. MPU Blue at Saipan Southern High School Field. Tan Holdings, which calls the San Antonio Elementary School as its home field, drew a bye in the opening day.

Competition in the U8 division started with all teams playing in the opening week. Paire Red dueled Paire White; MPU Silver battled MPU White; Matansa Gold challenged Matansa Green; Tan Holdings faced Paire Black; and IFC met MPU Blue.

The U10 division has four games in Week 1 with sister teams Paire Red and Paire Black colliding in San Vicente. Also scheduled to play in the opening day were Matansa Green vs. Matansa Gold; MPU Silver vs. Matansa Yellow; and IFC Green vs. IFC Orange. Tan Holdings had another bye in Week 1 in the U10 division.

Only four games were set for the U13 division. MPU White was to square off against MPU Blue in the boys' division at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, while Tan Holdings was to face Matansa. In the girls' division, Matansa was to challenge IFC, while MPU was to battle Paire.

"Our opening day went very smoothly. After three months break, I could say from the faces of all the parents and players that they are so eager to play football again. It was a great feeling to see hundred of kids kicking soccer balls and running up and down the pitch," league coordinator Lydia Tan said.

"We would like to thank every youth committee member for organizing the new season and we look forward to another successful season. We also want to recognize all five football clubs, namely Independents FC, Paire FC, Matansa FC, MP United FC, and Tan Holdings FC for their commitment in forming teams for each age group," she added.

Teams in the U6, U8, and U10 will play in a round-robin regular season, while the U13 division has a double round-robin format.

This year's fall league will culminate with a football festival on Nov. 14. Details of the bi-annual festival will be discussed later. NMIFA's first football festival for 2009 took place in May with more than 500 youth players joining the event.

11 TEAMS

From Page 28

headed by Gilbert Birnbrich.

"We're excited. We have a great venue at the Fiesta Resort beach. We look forward to a great competition from all the teams," said Birnbrich during a promotional photo session yesterday.

Joining the promotional photo session was Kazuaki Nishida, Das Krishnan, and Sikkel.

Nishida is the Director of Sales and Marketing of Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc., which operates Fiesta Resort Guam and Saipan as well as Saipan Grand Hotel.

Krishnan is the Food and Beverage manager for Fiesta Resort, the major sponsor for the event.

"We are excited to host the participants. We just hope for a good weather so that we will have a great event for all the teams," Nishida said.

Sikkel said Continental Airlines is offering discounted airfare and is giving Saipan 12 tickets to be able to make it to next year's event to be hosted by Palau.

Other sponsors who have committed are Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Pacific Trading Co., and Hertz Rental Car.

Sikkel said they have other sponsors lined up, but they are waiting for their final confirmation.

The last time Saipan hosted the event was in 2006. Teams that register on or before Oct. 1 could avail of a discounted fee of only $300 per team. Those that register after Oct. 1 will be charged $400.

Information about registration forms, rules, discounted airfare by Continental Airlines and accommodation information, and a tentative schedule, can be browsed through www.saipanoutrigger.org. For more direct questions, email the race administrator at saipanoutrigger@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	99	56	.639	–
Boston	91	63	.591	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	78	76	.506	20 1/2
Toronto	71	84	.458	28
Baltimore	60	94	.390	38 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	83	71	.539	–
Minnesota	81	73	.526	2
Chicago	74	81	.477	9 1/2
Cleveland	63	91	.409	20
Kansas City	63	92	.406	20 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	90	64	.584	–
Texas	85	69	.552	5
Seattle	80	75	.516	10 1/2
Oakland	75	80	.484	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	65	.578	–
Atlanta	84	70	.545	5
Florida	83	72	.535	6 1/2
New York	66	89	.426	23 1/2
Washington	52	102	.338	37

Central Division

y-St. Louis	90	65	.581	–
Chicago	81	73	.526	8 1/2
Milwaukee	77	78	.497	13
Cincinnati	74	81	.477	16
Houston	71	83	.461	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	57	96	.373	32

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	62	.600	–
Colorado	87	68	.561	6
San Francisco	82	73	.529	11
San Diego	72	84	.462	21 1/2
Arizona	67	88	.432	26

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 11, Washington 5
Chicago Cubs 6, San Francisco 2
Cincinnati 10, Houston 4
L.A. Dodgers 8, Pittsburgh 4
Milwaukee 7, Philadelphia 5
Florida 9, N.Y. Mets 6
Arizona 8, San Diego 5
St. Louis 6, Colorado 3
Toronto 5, Seattle 4, 10 innings
N.Y. Yankees 3, Boston 0
Cleveland 9, Baltimore 8
Detroit 12, Chicago White Sox 5
Minnesota 11, Kansas City 6
Texas 15, Tampa Bay 3
Oakland 15, L.A. Angels 10

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Tour Championship, a $7.5 million US PGA Tour event at 7,304-yard, par-70 East Lake Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

Kenny Perry	72-66-64—202
Tiger Woods	67-68-69—204
Phil Mickelson	73-67-66—206
Sean O'Hair	66-70-70—206
Steve Marino	69-71-67—207
Padraig Harrington	67-69-71—207
Steve Stricker	70-72-66—208
Ernie Els	71-66-71—208
John Senden	70-70-69—209
Stewart Cink	67-72-70—209
Angel Cabrera	72-67-70—209
Jerry Kelly	71-67-71—209
David Toms	74-66-70—210
Nick Watney	70-69-71—210
Jim Furyk	72-68-71—211
Lucas Glover	68-71-72—211
Y.E. Yang	71-75-66—212
Geoff Ogilvy	75-73-64—212
Heath Slocum	73-68-71—212
Jason Dufner	71-68-73—212
Retief Goosen	69-72-72—213
Marc Leishman	70-74-70—214
Mike Weir	72-72-70—214
Zach Johnson	70-72-73—215
Scott Verplank	70-71-74—215
Hunter Mahan	71-73-72—216
Dustin Johnson	69-74-73—216
Kevin Na	73-70-75—218
Luke Donald	70-71-78—219
Brian Gay	72-72-76—220

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LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ CAGE STANDINGS

IT&E	9	0
Hyatt	2	0
Tinian	4	1
PSS	5	4
MBI	4	3
Docomo	3	2
CHC	3	3
DCCA	3	4
BOG	3	5
Customs	1	3
CPA	1	5
ARFF	0	8

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	5	0
G-Stars	3	0
Sixers	4	2
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	3	2
670 Rollers 2	2	2
Rollers 1	2	2
CK Saints	2	2
Ol'Aces	1	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	3
Hi-5	0	3
Celtics	0	4

The Week in Sports

Local sports back after Choi-wan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI athletes went back to business last week, following the cancellation of various sports events due to super typhoon Choi-wan.

The Saipan Bowling Association, which called off the second day of its September roll-offs, resumed action six days after Choi-won halted the competition and had Alex Castro and Emi Williams as crowned Budweiser September King and Queen of the Lanes for this month.

When SBA members joined the second roll-off, none of them surpassed the 830 pinfalls Castro recorded on Sept. 13.

Castro was on target in Day 1 of the King of the Lanes, knocking down 227 pins in his first game and followed that up with a 203. He slowed down a bit in Game 3 with his 175 before finishing strong with a 225 to record a 207.5 pinfall average.

Williams registered 703 in Day 1 and played better in Day 2 with her 711 pinfalls to keep her reign in the Queen of the Lanes tournament.

The 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League and 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League also returned to action at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with the league-leading IT&E and Sonics picking up where they left off.

IT&E booked two wins to remain unbeaten in nine matches, while the Sonics also kept their clean slate after five games.

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial recorded his 20th win after a knockout victory over Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

The Marianas Elite prizefighter knocked out cold the Psycho Gym fighter with a devastating right uppercut and left hook combination that left Mesa unconscious on the mat for at least a couple of scary minutes.

Fitial's win was recognized as "KO of the night" and he received a plaque for that feat. The Saipan fighter's victory also installed him as the No. 1 contender in the heavyweight division of Pacific Xtreme Championship and helped him set a title bout against PXC heavyweight champion Roke Martinez.

Also prevailing in his bout in Guam was Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse, who defeated the U.S. territory's Brian "Shotgun" Howard via rear-naked chokehold at the 1:06 mark of the first round.

Three other Saipan fighters were not as lucky as Fitial and Jesse.

"Kill" Bill Saures went down in defeat in his 180-lb. division match against J.J. Ambrose from the U.S. mainland, while "Tabi" Jay Muna lost by submission to Justin "The Shocker" Cruz. Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan also suffered the same fate, bowing to up-and-coming Kyle "Boom" Reyes in their 145-lb. division match.

Still in an off-island competitions, golfer Jess Wabol started the CNMI's campaign in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games at Rarotonga Golf Club in the Cook Islands.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal shot a 5-over par 77 for the 20th best in the first round and was 11 strokes behind Day 1 leader Vikrant Chandra of powerhouse Fiji.

Wabol then carded a 3-over par 75 and 7-over par 79 in the next two rounds for 21st place before closing out strong with a 2-over par 74 in the fourth round for a total of 305, which was good only for 21st in the individual competition.

Joining Wabol in the Cook Islands was triathlete Joshua Manglona, who will be seeing action in the Mini Games on Sept. 30.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emi Williams is flanked by runners-up Lyn Santos and Gigi Zapanta after the September King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Sept. 20.

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The CNMI's Jess Wabol tees off in the second round of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games golf competition Thursday at the Rarotonga Golf Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian's Joshua Manglona, left, of triathlon and Jess Wabol pose with their hostess at the opening ceremony of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial pummels Guam's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa with vicious combinations during their heavyweight bout in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 held last Sept. 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam's Toby "Big Tobz"Mesa lies unconscious on the mat for a couple of minutes after being knocked out by Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 held last Sept. 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file photo from a tournament in New Caledonia, is back home after an eventful three months of off-island competition.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here in a file photo from a swimming event on Saipan, will be part of the traveling team of the University of Hawaii-Manoa Rainbow Warriors.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matansa Football Club president Jerry Tan with Matansa players at Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe during the club's recent appreciation dinner party for its NMIFA men's league team. Standing from left, Moe, Jun, Tan, Samisi, general secretary Joven. Sitting from left, Gaberial, Min, Derus, Halim, and Rangi.

Cardinals clinch NL Central with win over Rockies

Jason LaRue homered off Ubaldo Jimenez to break a seventh-inning tie as the St. Louis Cardinals clinched the National League Central crown with a 6-3 win over the Colorado Rockies on Saturday. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Local sports back after Choi-wan

CNMI athletes went back to business last week, following the cancellation of various sports events due to super typhoon Choi-wan. 24

Wabol saves best for last in Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

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Elmay Viking, left, and Kirk Tuaiti took the gold medal in the individual golf competitions in the Pacific Mini Games 2009 at the Rarotonga Golf Club in the Cook Islands.

CNMI bet Jess Wabol played his best game in the final round of the golf competition in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games at the Rarotonga Golf Club in the Cook Islands on Friday (Saturday in the CNMI).

Wabol shot a 2-over par 74 in the fourth round for a four-round total of 305. The lone CNMI representative to the individual golf competition in the quadrennial meet started slow with his 5-over par 77 in the first round. He then improved his game in the second round with a 3-over par 75 before struggling anew in the third round with a 7-over par 79. The former Oleai Elementary School principal entered the final round at 21st place and kept his spot with his best round in the tournament.

The hosts swept the golf competitions behind individual winners Kirk Tuaiti and Elmay Viking.

Tuaiti fired a 1-over par 73 in the final round on Saturday for a four-round total of 278 and a one-shot win over Samoa's Patrick Fepuleai. Fepuleai recorded the final-round's best score of 12-under 60 to save a silver medal. Actually, Fepuleai tied the Cook Islands' Sonny Karati for second, as they both tallied a 279 in four rounds. The Samoan golfer took the silver after winning in the first playoff hole on No. 17. First round leader Vikrant Chandra of Fiji, who nailed

See WABOL on Page 26

38 teams join NMIFA youth fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMIFA Youth Football League-Fall 2009 kicked off on Saturday with 38 teams entered in the year-ending event.

The U8 division, which is a co-ed competition, has the most teams with 10. Both the Paire Football Club and MP United have three teams entered in the U8 division, while Matansa Football Club has two. Independents Football Club and Tan Holdings Club have one squad apiece.

MP United also has three teams in the U6 division, while Matansa and Paire have two apiece. IFC and Tan Holdings are fielding one team each in the youngest age group.

In the U10 division, Matansa has three teams, IFC and Paire have two apiece, and Matansa and Tan Holdings have one each.

The U13 division has a separate

See NMIFA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United Silver and Matansa Yellow players in action during the U10 co-ed game in the opening day of the NMIFA Youth Football League-Fall 2009 at the Garapan Elementary School Field on Saturday.

Three teams debut with wins in NMIVA fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pwipwise marked its debut in the PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMIVA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League 2009 with a sweep, while two other teams also won their opening games on Thursday night on the PIC sand court.

The Larry Sharry-captained Pwipwise challenged Saipan Southern High School 2 in the opening game and drew first blood with a 21-18 win in the first set. Pwipwise took the last two sets, 21-17, 15-4, to complete the sweep.

Sharry teamed up with Theresa Miller, Youme Sharry, Josh Stevens, Micah Age, Ana Manibusan, and Amber Sarkkinen in recording the first sweep in the fall league. The Sharry brothers and Miller played for Numa Numa which ruled NMIVA's spring league, several months ago.

SSHS 2 is composed of Manta Rays students and is captained by Jenn Brown.

In the second game, SSHS 1 pulled off a surprised win in the opening set against O-No, 21-12, before the latter recovered in the last two sets, 21-14, 15-13, to foil the former's upset bid.

Veteran and team captain Dan Westphal drew help from the lanky Dae Won Jeon and their female players to bounce back from an opening set loss. O-No escaped with a come-from-behind win despite playing with a two-man, two-woman combination. In the four-person league, a team should at least

See THREE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Youme Sharry, seen here going for a kill in one of Numa Numa's games in the Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball Spring League, now plays for Pwipwise in the fall league which kicked off last week on the PIC sand court.

11 teams confirmed, 16 more from MPRA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Eleven teams are already confirmed for the 11th Annual Micronesian Cup Outrigger Canoe set on Saipan from Oct. 24 to 25 in the waters off Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Saipan has two teams—Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club and Fatuul SFCC, while Palau has entered two teams—Team Waterfall and Taki.

Teams from Guam are Napun Haya, Guahan Flyers 1 and 2, Tao Tao Galaide, and Poksai OGCC.

Hong Kong will be sending a team to be represented by Lantau IOCC while Japan will have a mixed team called Ohana Hoe.

Event coordinator Richard Sikkel said Marianas Paddlesport Racing Association has committed to bring in seven more men's, four women's, and five mixed teams.

But their names have not been submitted to the organizing committee

See 11 TEAMS on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
From left, Richard Sikkel of Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan F&B manager Das Krishnan, Micronesian Cup Organizing Committee chair Gilbert Birnbrich, and Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. Director for Sales and Marketing Kazuaki Nishida pose for a photo at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.